

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Eadestown** Ref: **101**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **224**
Category: **A** Date(s): **19/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	224

Overall Development Approach:

Eadestown is welcome to the 2009 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for your submission including your Town Plan, photographs and a copy of the May 2009 issue of The Annagaul. The map included in your plan was very clearly annotated and a real help on adjudication day. You have an active committee given the size of your village so well done to all involved and keep up the good work.

We were a little confused as to the timeframe for your plan. The cover lists it as 2007-2010 however the inner pages listed 2007-2012. As most of your proposed projects were listed up to 2010, apart from ongoing projects, the timescale you are working to is a little unclear. If it is a 3 year plan as opposed to a 5 year plan we hope you will have had a thorough review of all your goals. You should review all the planned projects undertaken, those still outstanding and explore issues that may have prevented you completing tasks. This can then be then used as a basis for the planned update of the plan, as mentioned in your response the Adjudicators Report 2008. We were very impressed with the photographs of your float in the Naas Easter Parade. We hope the two trees on the float have been planted successfully in Eadestown!

The Built Environment:

Once again the Church and its grounds were well maintained. There was some grass growth at the graves to the back of the church and you mention this as one of your planned projects. The old bollard on the footpath could be repainted. Perhaps both it and the height restrictor at the car park could be painted a dark green or grey colour to make them less intrusive. The bollard could be finished with red on its banding to match the monument. The monument has benefited from the removal of the plant pots and was looking well although a new coat of paint should be part of your next round of projects. The erection of a plaque giving some information of Captain Tickle would also be useful and we hope to see some progress on this. Perhaps you could contact a local business to sponsor this project.

The community centre, school and Funbugs were all looking well with the standard of landscaping around the Funbugs admired. Perhaps a line of trailing plants could be installed at the top of the retaining wall here to reduce its impact when seen from the road. The footpath here also needs to be finished at the base of the telegraph pole.

Landscaping:

The photographs provided of the welcome impact of spring bulbs in your village were much appreciated. The planter boxes in the village at the graveyard, car park and near the post box were full of colour on adjudication day. While some boxes are great for seasonal colour we would advise you to consider planting a native hedge to the rear boundary of the car park for year round structural planting to this area. In addition to hiding the single species garden hedge, if planted with a mix of native species, it would be a useful habitat creation project. This is noted as one of your projects and we would encourage you to complete this task for the long term improvement of the space.

The new crab apple tree planting adjoining the new graveyard was great to see. We noted that a number of newly planted trees adjoining the more established trees planted to the front of Caureen View, had failed. This may have been because of competition from the overgrown grass verge. Ensure you have a proper watering and weed control programme in place for all newly planted trees for successful establishment. These dead trees should be replanted. We hope in the future you can continue this tree planting along the Blessington road to create a full avenue for the village approach.

There was some weed growth at the bi lingual welcome to Eadestown sign. Make sure the shrub growth here is kept in check so that they do not hide the sign. You are to be commended on all the planting that has been carried out in the village over the last number of years. The challenge moving forward will be to ensure that all areas are properly maintained, especially during the first few years' establishment stage.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your wildlife area was looking rather poor with dead plants, scattered blocks and no real strategy for it management in evidence. We would suggest that a real way to improve biodiversity in the village would be to ensure native plants are used where possible including berry bearing and seed bearing trees and shrubs. Some of the ornamental plating used around the car park appears a little gardenesque for your lovely rural setting. Instead build on the beautiful countryside setting you enjoy and protect and extend your existing native habitats: - hedgerows, native tree stands, wildflower areas. A very simple biodiversity map outlining these habitats would be very useful for you. This can be a clear inventory of the various habitat types present around your village. This simple study can inform how habitats can be enhanced with appropriate planting and management regimes and will be a useful baseline study to have. As you improve areas through planting, bird boxes etc. you can assess how the habitats in your village are faring and how successful your measures at protection and enhancement are.

Litter Control:

There was no litter evident on adjudication day. We noted a number of green bins at the cemetery to collect weeds and grass cuttings from the graves. You say in the submission that there was a bin to be placed at the Naas Road post box, this wasn't seen here on adjudication day.

Waste Minimisation:

Please send our thanks on to the pupils of Rathmore National School for their informative and beautifully written description of their schools progress in the green school programme. We wish them all the best in their efforts towards their third green flag for water conservation. Your efforts at highlighting recycling, as noted in your application form, including batteries, Christmas cards and stamps is also commended.

As one of the aims of this category is to reduce the amount of waste produced in a community and encourage recycling we also note the Monster Auction held by the Eadestown GAA in June. This is a very effective way to give items that may have been thrown away by one household, a new lease of life in another household. Well done to all involved. We hope it was a success and will become an annual event in your community's calendar. Maybe next year's project in this category will be to advance your composting strategies.

Tidiness:

The completion of the roadwork and crèche development has made a major impact in this category and the village was generally very well presented. Again there was no evidence of graffiti. Keeping on top of maintenance of the green areas is one of your challenges. The wooden trough planters used throughout the

village are looking a little worn. Perhaps in areas like the rear of the car park and along side the post box, native hedges could be established. This would reduce the efforts required to maintain and water the planters. Your efforts with planters could be concentrated on hard standing areas like the exterior of the graveyard and around the church. All verges should be maintained from within the speed limit signs if possible.

Residential Areas:

Caureen View was well presented but the entrance stone could benefit from a wash. At Newtown Grove the grass verges need to be mown and keep on top of weed growth along the kerb line. The birch trees planted along the road here would benefit from having their canopies raised. The relatively new housing at Carters Hill was admired and as the tree planting here matures it will greatly improve their setting. It's a pity so much tarmac was used at the entrance area. Could planters be installed here to reduce the hard look of the entrance area?

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The resurfacing of the church car park and cemetery pull in zone has made a big difference to the presentation of these areas. Indeed the completion of the crèche works has also had a big impact although as mentioned above work still needs to be done to complete the footpath in this area. The Rathmore School ahead sign past the Carters Hill development needs to be cleaned. Ensure all road signs are legible and free of overhanging vegetation. The verge alongside the footpath to the Graveyard was overgrown and untidy looking on one of the main approaches to the village. Good luck with your efforts to secure a safe footpath from the church to the school. There was some weed growth along the base of the wall opposite the post box on the Blessington Road.

General Impression:

Eadestown has benefited from the roadwork's and community developments which have enhanced your village over the last number of years. As you approach the review of your town plan we wish you luck with developing new strategies and wish you continued success in your involvement with the TidyTowns Competition. Good luck for the coming year.