

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathangan** Ref: **383**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **284**
Category: **C** Date(s): **14/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	37
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	284

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the comprehensive application with background info and photos on CD, and detailed, handdrawn maps. It might be better to consolidate the various maps onto one larger pre-printed version, with coloured stickers/ numbered/ lettered as an index rather than writing on the detail. However, if this is the style that suits it is functional. There is an immense amount of work going into the area over the years. Great to see some recognition in scoring high in the county competition and in Race Against Waste as success breeds success. The plans appear well organised and comprehensive but a comment would be to see if things could be summarised in tables rather than long lists, so projects would be visible at a glance. It would be useful to indicate costs of projects for planning purposes, along with the lead person/ group responsible.

The Built Environment:

The Garda Station building was admired as were the fine 18th and 19th century buildings on the Edenderry side, with lovely features such as railings and posts and archways with inset doors. The church and adjacent school are fine buildings, as is the convent being used as offices. With the mature trees here and open spaces it makes for an impressive sight. Attractive shape to the town, with lovely buildings and shopfronts throughout, as well as network of bridges which are features of high interest. Houses opposite the new centra are cheerful. The forge is lovely.

Landscaping:

Landscaping from Spencer Bridge towards town is very nice, with potential for improvement on the other side. The roundabout at the Clonbullogue approach is fairly new in appearance and needs some attention to help it settle in. There is opportunity for greenery or other features in the centre of the roundabout. The amount of old stone walls throughout the town is fantastic and lovely to see these incorporated into new developments. They help integrate the town also as they are present on all sides. Area around the river and canal all very

enjoyable to walk along.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Thank you for the personal reports on birdlife in gardens. The canal and the River Slate are fabulous amenities to have and especially having them side by side. The display panel with local flora was admired. All throughout the town are native trees in hedgerows which would be rich habitat for birds, insects and other wildlife. The proximity of the bog of Allen is also a wonderful asset, as is the excellent amenity of Kilmacthomas Wood. I look forward to seeing plans for river/ canal park come to fruition.

Litter Control:

The Bring Centre at the church was very neat and well decorated with paintings. There was a scattering of litter on approach roads. The church car park was spotless, however in the town itself there was quite a bit of cigarette litter particularly outside pubs. There was also quite a bit of litter down by the canal around the benches. It would be difficult to control this, and the adjudication took place on a Sunday morning which is likely to be the worst time as litter from previous night still strewn around.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done for looking into the sustainability of your actions with the carbon counter for Tidy Towns. There is a lot of work going on in the energy efficiency area and this is commended. You may be well placed to explore other schemes such as Green Communities and Transition Towns. Well done also to the schools in the Green Schools scheme. Any promotion of waste prevention will gain you further marks here, as will any of the many initiatives in Race Against Waste guidance.

Tidiness:

Lock gates and benches along the canal are all smartly painted. Generally very tidy overall, with the defunct industrial sites of Drummonds and Conlon's in need of attention. There is a wide space around Cribbons lane with a pump that there must be plans for to use as a feature but is currently lying askew. The factory has made efforts to soften the exterior with hedges and flowers planted.

Residential Areas:

Ard Mhuire is kept simple and neat and was admired apart from the odd pallet that emerged from a stone in the grassy area. Ballinderrig communal spaces all free of litter and neat but would benefit from some general tidying of kerbs. The pruned trees at the terraced houses opposite provide beautiful foliage in various colours, but the fence was noticed as being due for a lick of paint. New estates, Doorley Park, Pomeroy, were all litter free and will look better as they mature. Tannery wharf was also neat and clean, with good trees and new trees planted. The adjacent park was also admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach from Clonbullogue has various aged houses and there is a somewhat mixed up feel, however once you enter town the heritage is clear. Lovely broad streets with stately buildings on either side and features such as archways with inset doors add interest. Approach from Allenwood road has some properties with shabby fencing which, if improved, would make a difference on this approach. There are some lovely old stone boundary walls and a beautifully painted yellow cottage caught the eye. Spaces such as that at the Cribbin lane / Newtown area could be enhanced to provide a welcome to the town at this end. There is some lovely honeysuckle in the hedges on this approach.

General Impression:

It's a rural, agricultural town with good basic plan and solid heritage associated with peatbog industry. The challenge is for new builds to be integrated and this has not been met in some cases. The views over the countryside and towards Hill of Allen are spectacular. Very good overall with a few easily overcome issues. With this setting, the strong community involvement, the many features of character and excellent approach to organising and planning, this town will continue to do well.