

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Timolin** Ref: **387**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **233**
Category: **A** Date(s): **18/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	233

Overall Development Approach:

Timolin is welcome to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission including your Town Plan. 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. The support you receive from local businesses including the local pub is great to see and long may it continue. Perhaps it is time to review your 2007-2012 plan as it is mid way through its term. You could do a review of the projects planned and those completed. You can then reassess your goals as set out in the plan and see where you may need to concentrate your efforts for the coming years.

The Built Environment:

St Mullins Church and its grounds were beautifully maintained. The grounds were kept well and it was very peaceful on adjudication day. Perhaps the view from the graveyard to the adjoining yard and shed could be screened with appropriate evergreen planting to the boundary of the graveyard. Traditional shrubs used in graveyards would include holly, acuba or laurel. The school and its yard were clean and neat but the shed in the yard should be fitted with doors or cleared, as the rubbish visible inside was untidy. O'Brien's pub was well presented with planted pots framing the door. The corrugated iron panels at the gateway detracted from the pub's façade and should be replaced with more suitable gates. The Pewter Mill was a beautiful set piece and well maintained. The period house on the main street was particularly admired with colourful hanging baskets and a neatly maintained front garden area. Your purple theme of Timolin in 2009 was certainly eye catching with the seats and planted wheel barrow all colour coordinated.

Landscaping:

The planted beds throughout the village were well presented and weed free so well done to all concerned. We note you have had problems with wind damage at the welcome bed. Perhaps you could plant a native

hedgerow to the rail in the field behind the bed, which as it matures would act as a wind break in addition to improving the habitat value of the bed. Grass verges were well presented. We note from your Plan that you had planned to plant early flowering bulbs on roadside banks between 2007-2009. Have you completed this task? If so we would love to see the impact of this and if photos could be taken during the spring they could be included with your submission next year?

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The creation of the two wildlife areas in the villages is a great approach to improve biodiversity in your village and your signs were a nice touch to inform the public why the spaces were being left as wildlife oasis. Have you considered installing bird or bat boxes here to further improve biodiversity? Bird diversity could be assessed by repeatedly walking a predetermined course at regular intervals (e.g. twice each spring/ early summer) and noting the number and type of birds seen/heard in the areas i.e. road side, nature areas, gardens. You can then use this as a baseline to see if the nature areas and planting programmes are attracting more birds to the area. We note that you are proposing to carry out a landscape character assessment as part of your future works. In conjunction with this you could also carry out a simple habitat study noting all the habitat types in your village i.e. hedgerows, gardens, stream, trees, flower beds etc. One of the actions in your plan was to liaise with the Heritage Council to source funding to carry a habitat survey out? Has this been successful?

Litter Control:

The village was generally litter free however some litter had been blown from the yard at the rear of the school. The old bin at the entrance to the terrace had no internal container and perhaps could be removed if it is no longer in use. Your regular litter patrols, daily during most of the year, are a great sign of the commitment of your community to keep your area litter free and continued good luck with these.

Waste Minimisation:

You say that you are carrying out discussions with local businesses in relation to waste minimisation. Has this achieved any results? The key principle of this category is to demonstrate ways in which communities prevent the accumulation of waste. Have you considered carrying out a waste audit to see how much waste is generated and how you can target specific actions to reduce this accumulation? Have you advanced the proposal to set up a central composting facility? As part of a waste audit you could see how many households in the village have compost bins (this could be done in conjunction with the local school). Households without bins could be encouraged to contact Kildare Co Co who supply bins at a reasonable cost.

Tidiness:

In general the village is tidy and well presented. There was evidence of recent weed spraying especially along the fence opposite O'Brien's Pub, so well done to all involved in this. The wheelie bins at the front of O'Briens spoiled the otherwise well kept appearance of the pub. They should be moved out to the rear once the bins have been collected. The bungalow and single story building beside the terrace, in front of the garden centre, could do with a new coat of paint. The Eircom phone box seems to have been decommissioned and contact should be made with Eircom to ensure its swift removal if it is no longer operational. The sign for the Pewter Mill along the main road was looking tired and could do with updating or removal.

Residential Areas:

The Terrace and houses facing the main street were again well presented so well done to all residents. There was some weed growth at the low wall to the open space in front of Millbrook. The grass areas should be cut more regularly to keep this area tidy. Perhaps a native hedge could be planted behind the stone wall here to soften the view from the road and it may be a more suitable boundary for the village setting.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The verges on the approach roads to the east were well kept which gave a neat introduction to the village. It was good to see the timber post and rail fence along with traditional timber gate established as a boundary on the site opposite Byrne car sales. As the beech hedge grows and matures this will be an appropriate boundary for this prominent site in the village. Perhaps you could encourage the planting of a similar beech hedge to the timber fences on the properties to the opposite side of the road for a consistent approach.

General Impression:

Timolin is an attractive village that shows a real commitment from its community to improve its environment and to keep your common areas tidy. Well done on your efforts in 2009 and good luck for the future

