

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Callan** Ref: **987**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **197**
Category: **C** Date(s): **30/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	20
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	10
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	197

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Callan to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed entry form and map. Unfortunately, the map was of limited value to the adjudicator. It was a diagrammatic map that was difficult to follow for someone, who had not visited Callan before. No North point was included and this made orientation difficult at times. The map did not indicate your projects undertaken for this year's competition. You have a large committee of 10 and this is encouraging for the future, as is the County Council support and that of SuperValu. The methods that you use to communicate with the Callan community are all appropriate and useful. The three Schools have good links with your Committee and that opens up many possibilities for future environmental cooperation. The adjudicator really likes your view that a 'can do' attitude has to be developed in Callan and this is the way forward. The adjudicator noted that a 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan was not included with your documentation and it is recommended that you prepare one for next year's entry. This should indicate year by year, for the period 2010 to 2012, what projects you will undertake each year and who the supporting agencies might be, with an estimate of cost. This approach should be of great help to your committee.

The Built Environment:

It is great to see, that the owners of the Co-Operative building have agreed a new way forward for this building and that restoration, and repainting have been agreed with you – well done to all involved! Work was progressing on the Parish Church on the day of the visit and we look forward to seeing the finished results next year. St Brigid's Convent and the Edmund Rice Monument are the two key aspects of the built environment in Callan, and both were much admired. The Funeral Home was examined and the relatively modern front façade has been well designed. The lettering on the street elevation is appropriate and has echoes of earlier shop fronts in Callan. Keogh's Model Bakery, off the centre of the town, is a beautiful old shop front, one indeed of a number in the town. Good landscaping was admired at the School on Flaggy Lane

and the School further out near the Roundabout looked really well. The presentation here was really neat and tidy. Another fine retail shop front was admired – that of O'Brien's on Green Street. Some of the detailing here is a little unusual and most attractive. Callan is quite lucky in having a great number of good shop fronts. The Fire Station is attractively presented, with good landscaping on each side of the red doors. A number of fine Limestone buildings is an important aspect of the built environment in Callan and this includes the County Council Callan Area Office.

Landscaping:

The adjudicator has noted that you planted new trees at the top of Flaggy Lane, but a visit here did not clearly identify these and the map was not able to assist in this regard. The possible opening of the Motte in the future to the public is an interesting idea. However, it is essential that you have discussions with the Kilkenny County Archaeologist on this at an early stage. The opening to the public could lead to serious erosion problems and this is an important monument. Have you seen the Motte in St Mullin's? Good entrance landscaping caught the eye at the entrance to Avondale. Quite a number of hanging baskets and window boxes were appreciated in Callan and these brought welcome colour to the streets. Along West Street, the landscaping enhanced the overall impression here.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your entry form mentioned a project for this year to clean up the King's River. At the main road bridge, litter was noted in the river and a general clean up is suggested. No other projects were identified in your entry form under this heading. For next year, can you let us have precise details and locations of your various projects?

Litter Control:

The 2009 Spring Clean seems to have involved the Callan community in a serious way and it is great to read that the County Council Environmental Officer has been speaking to all classes in the Schools. The adjudicator would really like to have been given a copy of the Poster on Gum Litter, that you gave to all businesses in Callan. This is the sort of information that the adjudicator needs in order to consider marks adjustments on last year. The ten zones for litter picks is a great strategy – how often is litter picked in these areas? You have done major work on Gum Litter this year and you are commended for this commitment. Litter was evident in the river at the bridge and along by the terraced house on the Clonmel Road. The Bering Centre at Canon Kennedy Court was admired and the timber gates would be improved if painted. Litter was also evident in Mill Street, opposite the terraced houses, and across the road from Top Garage.

Waste Minimisation:

Your entry indicated that you are working closely with the County Council on waste minimisation, but again the adjudicator was left in the dark in regard to details, so your work with the Local Authority could not be fully assessed.

Tidiness:

The removal of graffiti and unwanted signage was an important project, but again the adjudicator was not offered details or locations, so that the results of your work here could be examined. Along Bridge Street, the black bollards would be improved if repainted. At the top of Mill Lane, the old petrol pump, that seems discussed, could be removed by the owner if possible.

Residential Areas:

The adjudicator needed details of your work with the estates, but did not get details. Do you have an Estates Competition? Perhaps, this might be considered for next year with the help of a local sponsor. Prizes should not be in cash, but in Garden Centre vouchers. At the entrance to Westcourt Demesne, graffiti was noted on a litter bin. At the rear of this estate, an extensive grass area with young trees was admired. At least one young tree here was vandalised recently. The terrace of cottages along the Clonmel Road is most attractive and some landscaping set other houses off here to good effect. Close by, in Mill Lane further attractive cottages continued the theme. Old stone buildings, looking for a new use in the area of Canon Kennedy Court, were noted. Some rusty signs and gates in Edmund Rice Park needed attention, while the large grass area at nearby Bolton Green was admired. The Kings Court entrance area is well landscaped and impressive.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Pavement works were examined in Green Street, leading up to the Garda Barracks at the corner. On the Dunnmaggan approach road, some kerb weed caught the eye. Traffic seems to be a major problem in Callan, especially on narrow laneways off the main street. Has a one-way system been considered?

General Impression:

For next year do try and gives us more details under each adjudication category and in the meantime, good luck with all your projects.