

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Freshford** Ref: **762**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **226**
Category: **C** Date(s): **02/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	226

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Freshford back to the Tidy Towns Competition. You have not been with us since 2002 and your re-entry this year is important to the Competition. With a Committee of seven people, meeting on a monthly basis, you certainly appear to be well organised. It was good to read of the support that you have from the County Council and local businesses. Have you been talking to LEADER? The Competitions for Schools sound most interesting and we would welcome details for next year. The All Ireland Conker Championships sound like great fun! Well done on being so creative.

The entry form this year was rather limited and lacked detail, but this is understandable considering that you have just come back to Tidy Towns. For next year, you might include a map of the village that names the street and roads. The map can also indicate all the projects that you will have by then undertaken for 2010. The preparation of a simple 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan might also be considered.

The Built Environment:

There are some derelict buildings in Freshford that need attention. You should first of all approach the owner, if the owner is known. The County Council may be able to help here, as they have powers under The Derelict Sites Act. The large light blue or grey building beside Tallis needed to be repainted, while the DOE Vehicle Testing Centre was appealingly presented. It is a pity that the old Church (of Ireland?) in the village centre is closed. The doorway here looks quite interesting. At the garage, the white boundary walls needed to be repainted together with other areas here. The grey Limestone of the Catholic Church stands out, looking out over the beautiful Village Green. This building was admired, as was the crisp presentation of the Fire Station.

Landscaping:

The Millennium Park was visited and the circular walk along by the river was much enjoyed. The new planting and trees here are welcomed and the overall presentation of the Park is really excellent, and it is a most pleasant area. At the Urlingford road junction, the various flower barrels needed to be treated. The mossy area, at the small traffic island, looked very bare and could perhaps, be landscaped by agreement with the Local Engineer. The two barrels, at the Park entrance, also needed attention. The Green is a most wonderful area and the houses especially, on the side opposite the Church are so splendidly presented. You are so lucky to have so many fine mature trees in the centre of your village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

No projects for this year were indicated under this category. However, both the Park and The Green have great wildlife potential for the future. Have you considered a simple wildlife survey of Freshford? Perhaps, the School would get involved in this? The planned Leisure Walk sounds great and we look forward to details next year. This could include a Wildlife Trail around Freshford.

Litter Control:

Your entry mentioned National School awareness on litter and we would have liked some further details on this. It is so important to have the School involved in your various anti-litter projects, where possible. On the Ballyragget approach, litter was present at the 50 KPH signage. A further minor litter problem was noted inside the wall, at the entrance to the Millennium Park and litter, together with rubbish, needed to be removed from the river. The Urlingford also had a smattering of litter. The Bring Centre is really excellently presented and is a good example of how such facilities should always be presented. Litter was evident on the Clintstown Road and greater quantities were evident on the Tullaroan road.

Waste Minimisation:

This category is about reducing the amount of waste produced in Freshford. For the waste that remains after that recycling, becomes the issue. Can you look at the village and talk to businesses to see what waste reduction measures might be possible?

Tidiness:

You advised that you are talking to elected representatives about tidiness, but did not give details. Derelict buildings have been discussed above. On the Ballyragget approach, weed growth was noted at the wall near the 50 KPH signage. Abandoned vehicles were surprisingly evident in Freshford. One was noted in Ard Lactin estate and three in the untidy open space, beside the Millennium Park. Can these be removed by the owners or screened from public view? On the Urlingford approach, weed growth at the low all on the left needed attention. Most of the road signage needed to be washed. In The Green area, the old pumps looked a little out of place. Can these be removed by the owner?

Residential Areas:

No new projects were identified for 2010. Well done to Woodview estate on their great success in the County Council Competition. On the Ballyragget approach, some very well presented houses caught the eye, though some low boundary walls and railings needed attention. Some very good garden Roses were evident in a number of gardens. On the Clintstown Road some heavy mature landscaping added to the attraction of this approach. Quite a number of really well painted houses were noted around The Green and this adds so much to the enjoyment of this wonderful area. Near Woodview, the stone house with the lattice windows and great landscaping was much admired. Woodview was most impressive.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

It was sad to read that you are not getting much help from the County Council in respect of your approach roads. On the Ballyragget approach road, some of the verges needed to be cut especially, that on the left bin from the 50 KPH signage. Good verges stood out on the Clintstown Road. Other roads were reasonably well presented.

General Impression:

It is great to have Freshford back in Tidy Towns and good luck with your work for next year.