

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Gathabawn** Ref: **380**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **248**
Category: **A** Date(s): **02/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	248

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Gathabawn to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition and thank you for your comprehensive entry details. The map was most useful on the day and it marked all the village features. The Tidy Towns School Questionnaire was really interesting and helped to inform the adjudicator of how active the School is in environmental matters. There is a great sense of Gathabawn and Tidy Towns seems to be a community undertaking, rather than that of a Committee only. This is indeed the correct approach to Tidy Towns. You enjoy good agency support, which is vital for future progress and the links with the School are really excellent. For 2010, can you consider providing a 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for Gathabawn. This should indicate, by adjudication category and by year, the various projects that you wish to undertake in the period 2010 to 2012.

The Built Environment:

Good work was in progress on stone wall restoration on the day of visit and the work was of a high quality. It was encouraging to see that new stone walls are following in the traditional style of older walls in the area. This sounds obvious, but it does not always happen. The Spa Hill viewing area commands such a great view out over the valley. However, signposting for it from the village centre needs to be improved. Just one sign was noted and that is the one on the Freshford road. This sign alone is not sufficient. The adjudicator admired the various local names in Irish set into stone walls and this is a great way of keeping history alive for future generations. Mackey's Bar was greatly admired for the efficient simplicity and clarity of the graphics. The colour scheme here is also excellent. The first road boundary wall, at the School on the village approach, needs to be repainted. Good landscaping features here.

Landscaping:

The Native Woodland Park is an excellent development and an enjoyable area. It would be good to have a

roadside information panel here to explain the planting strategy and the wildlife that might be expected here. The Carey's Forge panel here was read with interest. The raised landscaped area on the Freshford approach was admired, as was the extensive landscaping in the area of the shop at the cross roads.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The plan for new walks in the Gathabawn is strongly supported. New tree planting in Gathabawn is suggested and do plant native species that will encourage and support wildlife.

Litter Control:

The National Spring Clean participation by Gathabawn obviously did a good job, as the village was very clean in litter terms on adjudication day and your mark in this category continues to rise.

Waste Minimisation:

You have attended information meetings on waste minimisation and this is welcomed. This category is about waste reduction in Gathabawn. Can you see if there are any waste reduction possibilities? Recycling also comes into this category. The use of the Parish Newsletter for the provision of waste minimisation suggestions is commended.

Tidiness:

On the approach from Freshford, rusty corrugated iron rooves were noted that should be repainted for next year, if possible. Just on the Johnstown side of the village, two buildings would be improved if repainted.

Residential Areas:

Thankfully, there are no housing estates in Gathabawn. The private houses all seem to demonstrate pride in their village and this is shown in the presentation of their own properties. On the Freshford side, one unfinished house looked a little untidy.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Freshford approach road created a poor first impression of Gathabawn. On the approach to the village, the visitor is welcomed by a very long farm road boundary wall on the left, that is stained and needs to be repainted. At least one farm gate here needs to be repainted also. The banks of the Spa Hill approach were tightly cut. Cutting of banks and hedges should not take place in the period from March to August under The Wildlife Act. This is in keeping with the needs of wildlife.

General Impression:

It was a real pleasure to visit the beautiful area of Gathabawn on a July afternoon. This is a really attractive village that has great potential to do well in the Competition.