

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Graiguenamanagh** Ref: **393**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **233**
Category: **C** Date(s): **01/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	8
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	233

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Graiguenamanagh to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition and thank you for your entry documentation. The map was most helpful, but for next year you might name each of the approach roads shown on the map. The photographs that you included were of great interest. Your committee of just five people seems a little small for a town the size of Graiguenamanagh and you do not appear to have a regular programme of meetings. For next year, can you include a copy of your 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for Graiguenamanagh, as this might entitle you to increased marks in this adjudication category? You are working with FAS and the County Council, and they are two key agencies for partnership purposes. Contact with the Schools as well as other relevant agencies is well coordinated.

The Built Environment:

The restoration of the Parish Hall will be a major project, but it is great that after such a long time the legal issues have been resolved. The Granite building at Brandonvale was much admired and it is good to see that a wall has now been erected. The adjudicator is of the view that this wall does not sit really well with the main building. This is probably due to the fact that the pointing is quite deep on the new wall in contrast to the wall of the building behind. However, despite this personal view, the wall is certainly a really great improvement on the old cement block wall. As you pointed out, dereliction is a serious problem in Graiguenamanagh. Have you spoken to the County Council on this, in the context of the Derelict Sites Act? They have powers they might be able to use in respect of some of the properties. At the M Doherty property, that you marked on the map, some roadside screening here would make a big difference. At the bridge, the Anchor property occupies a key location and an important junction in the town. The painting of this building would make a major difference to this part of Graiguenamanagh. The Playground near the Bring Centre was examined and is well presented. The fine seven arch bridge is a very attractive structure with some interesting detailing. Water and boats add so much to any town or village, and Graiguenamanagh is fortunate in this respect. Market Square appears to

represent a lost opportunity as presently evident. If car parking was removed from here the area could be hard and soft landscaped to include the area in front of the nearby Duiske premises. The Abbey was visited and what a beautiful place this is. Outside, one of the supports for the chain has collapsed and needed to be replaced. The Grotto was admired for its simple presentation using attractive natural stone.

Landscaping:

Your new tree planting in the three locations indicated on your entry form is warmly welcomed and the work on the two roundabouts was examined and admired. The refurbished bed at Cottage Row provides a good setting for the rather unusual sculpture that you have placed here. In full bloom, the Daffodils on the bye-pass must have looked so colourful. In your future landscaping plans do continue to consider landscaping for year round colour as well. Good landscaping was admired at the entrance to Fairview estate. Along the roadside at Gambia, the landscaping here is well presented and the poles successfully mark the edge of the road. It is suggested that the large concrete blocks here be replaced with matching poles. All poles should be painted perhaps, black or green or other suitable colour.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The plans for the Wood sound really interesting and we look forward to seeing progress next year. The regular cleaning of the river is commended, but the river at the bottom of high street at the bridge was very badly littered. The River Barrow gives Graiguenamanagh great potential to develop the wildlife aspect of your entry and we look forward to future progress here.

Litter Control:

You mentioned that dumping is a problem in Graiguenamanagh and indeed dumping at the Bring Centre, near Fairview was noted on adjudication day. Apart from this problem, here the Bring Centre was well presented. Have you spoken to the County Council about the use of hidden recording cameras here for a few weeks? Some littering was evident along The Quay and this could be a really attractive part of the town. The Rowing Club car park was very badly littered and some of the litter here, appearing to be 'aged', had been around for some time. Much litter was noted in the Douske River at the small bridge, at the bottom of High Street. An overflowing litter bin was seen at the College entrance on High Street.

Waste Minimisation:

The use of the Newsletter to encourage recycling is welcomed. This category is also about the reduction of the amount of waste generated in Graiguenamanagh. It is about suggesting to local businesses how they could reduce waste – for example, the recycling of cardboard boxes or paper.

Tidiness:

On the St Mullins road, at the right angled corner, a corrugated iron gate needed to be repainted. Along Main Street and in the centre of Graiguenamanagh in general, weed growth was evident at the base of walls. Some small narrow back areas also looked a little untidy. However, it is dereliction that is creating the main tidiness problem in the town and this has been discussed above.

Residential Areas:

The picnic area at Brandon Crescent was admired, as was the landscaping at Cottage Gardens. Some wire fencing and road boundary walls at Fairview estate needed attention. Really good landscaping impressed at Brandon Park. Along the New Ross, some very well presented individual houses caught the eye, though some iron railings along here needed to be repaired and / or repainted. A beautifully painted white corrugated iron house, with a slate roof extension, stood out here. At Brandon Crescent, the use of half barrels for landscaping was noted and nearby, Tobar Bhride has some good planting.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Thomastown road, the cleaned and planted stone wall was admired, as was the planting on the New Ross road. Beech hedging on the Carlow road adds to first impressions of Graiguenamanagh on this approach. On the Kilkenny / Carlow road, wire fencing before Top Garage looked a little untidy and the two roundabouts looked impressive.

General Impression:

Graiguenamanagh is an attractive town with good potential in Tidy Towns. Do try and get a Tidy Towns Plan prepared by your Committee in place for next year. Until we return again in 2010, good luck with all your projects.

