

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Inistioge** Ref: **394**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **294**
Category: **B** Date(s): **25/06/2009**
29/07/2009

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	46
The Built Environment	50	40
Landscaping	50	45
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	14
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	37
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	294

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Inistioge to the TidyTowns Competition 2009. Thank you for your detailed entry form and TidyTowns Plan. The map provided was difficult to follow, as some of the added numerals had been written over. The two annual open meetings are a great way of gathering further support for your Committee of fifteen. It was interesting to find out that your Working Group meets every Monday evening – what a commitment! The level of agency support appears to be very good and of course you enjoy excellent local support for your important work. It is a great idea to have a School Liaison Officer on your Committee, as these links are so very important. The Plan 2009 to 2011 was read with interest. It is suggested that, when next time you are revising this Plan, you use a structure based on the ten adjudication categories, and that you deal with projects under the appropriate adjudication category. Inistioge is a really attractive village, which in one sense does not have the atmosphere of a typical Irish village of similar size, and history is probably the reason for that. The adjudicator sees this as a most positive aspect of Inistioge. The adjudicator was so pleased to read of your strategy in respect of heritage and is in total agreement with you on this.

The Built Environment:

Your concerns in regard to derelict property are understood and the boarded up house in The Square now looks reasonably well, having received a cosmetic treatment. On the steep descent into Inistioge, down High Street, one of the Churches is attractively framed and draws the eye into the village. Both Churches are most interesting buildings suitably presented. The Graveyard, to the rear of the Church of Ireland church, is being especially well maintained and is an interesting area. The School on the Thomastown Road was looking very crisp and tidy, and was quite busy on the day of the visit. The stone facing for the new building, opposite the Church of Ireland was making progress on adjudication day and we look forward to seeing the finished property. The nearby modern Barron's development sits quite well into the village character. The Square is a

most beautifully landscaped area, where the majority of buildings are appropriately presented. The P Hogan and the Post office sites looked especially pleasing.

Landscaping:

The wildflower area on the Thomastown Road, near the School, was visited and photographed. It was noted that you have no new projects under this category this year. The adjudicator was pleased to note your policy of planting native Irish species where possible and those that will attract wildlife. Around the village, the three-tier flower displays were examined and these add even more colour to a colourful village. Are they perhaps, not a little too formal for a rural village? The Millennium Garden commands the view over the Square, but the parked vehicles to the left diminish the atmosphere in the Garden a little. The extensive Park area to the river is a wonderful area, in which one can spend a little peaceful time and is really well presented. The artificial landscaping here is low key and this is indeed the correct strategy here.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The riverside walk was enjoyed and also the informative wildlife panels. The area below the bridge is a really attractive one for wildlife and indeed, quite a lot of wildlife was seen along here. It was sensible idea to consult with the Wildlife Officer on the Owl and Bat Boxes – has anyone moved in yet? Your entry mentioned the upgrading of amenity areas but did not specify locations or work in mind.

Litter Control:

The Bring Centre is well located in a very public area and was well presented with good landscaped areas around it. The three poles here could be painted for next year. The litter patrols have been noted and your need for more litter bins. The bins that you have appeared to have been emptied recently and were in good order. Some litter was noted in the village centre and on the Square. Litter was also present in the stream in two locations. The problem was not however, serious.

Waste Minimisation:

You detailed a number of initiatives in which you are engaged under this heading and all of them are appropriate. At the School, the collection of Batteries and Cartridges is a welcome development. This concept can be extended to other disposable items as well.

Tidiness:

Your work with the business interests in respect of signage and clutter is commended and these problems did not seem to be evident during the visit. In the Square, the seats needed to be treated and also those along under the bridge. Hatchery Lane still has its problems in respect of the derelict house.

Residential Areas:

Very heavy mature landscaping was admired at The Orchard. Near the Bring Centre, the former Council Estate has attractive mature trees and sloping grassy banks. The uncut grass in the upper areas is great for meeting the needs of wildlife. Parts of Ard Aoibheann were quite untidy, as work is in progress here. Other private houses were in general quite well presented and good landscaping frequently caught the eye.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The High Street descent into Inistioge is dramatic on a fine day and the Thomastown Road is attractive for very different reasons. The approach over the fine stone bridges creates a great sense of anticipation, that is fully delivered when the village comes into view. In summary, the approach roads created a suitable positive impression, with the exception of Mill Road where very bad kerb weed was noted.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Inistioge on a warm June afternoon. Good luck with all your great plans for next year.

Second Round Adjudication:

Inistioge is a delight to visit and looked exceptionally well on the day of 2nd round adjudications. The beautifully presented heritage buildings and shop fronts create a unique atmosphere that was clearly being enjoyed by the many visitors on this day. This is all framed in a picturesque setting that creates great opportunities for amenity and wildlife alike.

I found that the approach road from Thomastown does not do justice to the town, but perhaps this has to do with some unfinished construction projects that were underway. One of the most charming features of the town is its many cafés and, pubs which call out to the passer-by to linger a while. This is augmented by the

range of amenity pursuits, from walking and cycling to picnicing by the river. The town was litter free and the central green was extremely well kept. Doyle's pub front could do with a clean. The riverside picnic area is very well presented – the Nore here is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and so is among the most important sites in Ireland for nature conservation.

Inistioge is truly a unique village in a spectacular setting – keep up the good work
!