

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Owning** Ref: **402**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **229**
Category: **A** Date(s): **30/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	229

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Owning to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your entry form. The entry form did not contain much in terms of detail and one section was totally blank. Again this year, a map of the village was not enclosed – a hand drawn map is perfect. This map should mark the street and roads, and where all roads are coming from. The map should also mark all your projects for the year. The adjudicator noted that a simple 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan was not included with your entry. Can you let us have your Plan next year, that would cover the period 2010 to 2012? It will be of great help to our future planning. Just three meetings a year does seem a little low for the committee of five. It was encouraging to see that you are working with the County Council. What about LEADER or Clar?

The Built Environment:

Your entry mentioned the painting of gates and cleaning out of old well, but did not give locations or any details. The new Cemetery was well maintained and the older Graveyard seemed to have been developed at an old Handball Alley, but the adjudicator is uncertain on this. Derelict property in Owning is a difficulty. Your first approach should be to the owner to see if they can blank out window and door openings with Marine Play. This can then be painted matt black and glazing bars painted in white. The County Council has powers under the Derelict Sites Act and you should discuss the issue with them also. The lettering at Anthony's pub certainly caught the eye, as did the neatly presented Marian Hall. The two flower containers at the door here were just right. The Catholic Church, again this year, was well presented.

Landscaping:

You entered referred to the planting and landscaping of an area on the approach to the village, but did not give details. Presumably, this is the very attractive triangular shaped area at the Piltown junction. This looked really well and the different colours, and textures here created a great impression. What appeared to be new

planting was admired on the Kilmaganny approach on the left hand side of the road, just before the Graveyard. The fine tree in the centre of Owing is a great focal point and perhaps, there is some history attached to this? Good landscaping at the entrance to the Bring Centre / Hall area was admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

No work for this year was identified under this adjudication category. As suggested last year, can you see if the School might be interested in getting involved with you in some wildlife projects? This might help to advance your marks in future years.

Litter Control:

Your entry mentioned a general clean up and on the day of the visit, litter control in Owing was very good. Occasional items of litter were noted in a few locations, such as at the Catholic Church road boundary wall. Can you give us a little more information next year on your work under this category please? Apart from the missing official signage, the Bring Centre was excellently presented and is well located.

Waste Minimisation:

You should try and engage with the School in respect of the Green Flag Programme and we would like to hear about all the details on this. This category is not purely about litter. It is about the steps that can be taken to reduce the amount of waste produced in Owing. The issue then is of the waste that must be reduced, how much of this could go into recycling.

Tidiness:

Derelict property has been discussed above. Your work on weed growth seems to have been effective, as this did not appear to be a problem at the roadside kerbs. At the old Graveyard, the gates would be improved if repainted. Opposite the Sue Ryder entrance, there is a quite untidy area across the road. Here, it is suggested that the long grass and weed are removed from the low stone wall. Do, of course, retain the attractive Ivy and other plants growing in the wall. Some advertising signage was noted here, that looked rather out of place.

Residential Areas:

Your entry mentioned that old walls had been repaired, but did not give a location for this work. Houses in the village were generally well presented. However, one house really caught the eye near the Piltown junction. This property has a concrete post and rail fence, and a gloriously landscaped front garden. The attention to detail here is amazing.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Owing is set in an attractive rural area with the near hills forming a great backdrop. The approach roads were inconsistent in presentation. Some good verges were noted, such as those on the Piltown road. On other approach roads verges had been roughly cut and, in some cases, the cut grass had not been taken away. However, these roads all have good potential for improved presentation. On the Piltown road, the landscaped village sign was admired.

General Impression:

The adjudicator was pleased to visit Owing for the first time. For next year, do remember to let us have a village map and much more detail on your various projects. In the meantime, good luck with your work for next year.