

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tullahought** Ref: **404**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **282**
Category: **A** Date(s): **30/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	42
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	42
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	282

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Tullahought to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the comprehensive bound document that contained the entry form and most detailed information on your work in the past year. Your committee of 8 people enjoys excellent agency support for your work and this is really encouraging. The close involvement that you have with Schools is another strong aspect of your approach to Tidy Towns and is really important. The Tullahought seems to be a really active community and the list of 37 projects for this year is really impressive. You provided a series of several maps, all of which greatly assisted the adjudicator in understanding your work for this year and navigating around the village area. While the copies of the Local Notes were interesting, they are not essential with your entry documentation – perhaps, just one sample would suffice for next year. The photographs supplied were also most helpful.

The Built Environment:

The under grounding of the cabling for the new street lights was a great achievement. Work at the Hall at the wheelchair access was examined. The entry documentation mentioned the restoration of a derelict building and this work is highly commended, and can quite often be most difficult for committees to progress. At Kieran's Bridge, the work in progress here was examined and when completed, this will be a most attractive area. Have you any plans to improve car parking here, as the road is quite narrow? The overall plan for here is imaginative. The low level roadside Grotto was much admired and the placement of the Statue on a large block of Quartz was inspired. The Viewing Tower is an imaginative project, not seen elsewhere by this adjudicator. Surprisingly, the view from here is really fantastic and the various information panels greatly enhanced the experience. The picnic table here adds the finishing touch. What a unique feature is to be found at the old 1860 Forge. The way the interpretation here is handled, is imaginative and was instructive for this adjudicator, whose great great grandfather was a village Blacksmith in Co. Wexford!

Landscaping:

The adjudicator noted that the Ivy was removed from the Graveyard wall. Normally, this adjudicator would like to see such plant growth retained, unless it was causing a structural problem for the wall and presumes that you had good reasons for removing this growth. The two new flower beds were admired, as were the many landscaped areas, both large and small at many locations in the Tullahought area. For example, the heavy landscaping at the cross-roads leading to The Tower has matured extremely well and the tiered effect here is visually most attractive. Landscaping at village signs also caught the eye, as did the attractive area with the picnic table at the lake. New trees have enhanced the Kilmaganny approach road.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your approach to and concern for wildlife, so ably demonstrated, is one of your real strengths as a community. The Loop Walk is a great attraction for both visitors and local people alike. It is great that you have involved An Taisce in your biodiversity plans for the future and they have so much experience to offer to communities, such as your own. The cleaning out of 35 bird boxes must have been a major task. Did you get a professional advice on this, as nature does not clean out nesting areas? The projects that you have identified for future consideration under this category are all excellent. The Habitat Survey involving the three local locations is warmly welcomed. The presentation of the lake area in such a natural way is exactly what is required here. What a truly great area this is for wildlife of many species.

Litter Control:

The local litter patrols are a great way of achieving good litter control and you have achieved this again this year – well done to the Tullahought community for their vigilance. At the Bring Centre, the official signage was missing. Apart from that, this facility was excellently presented and fits in very well with the attractively landscaped car park here. At The Tower, a little litter was noted on the ground, but the litter bin was overflowing.

Waste Minimisation:

The collection of farm plastic is an excellent initiative under this heading, but what are you then doing with the plastic collected? Do let us know for next year. Your promotion of recycling is strongly welcomed, as is the fact that one resident has got involved in wind power generation.

Tidiness:

The cleaning of all your road signs was noted, as the majority of them looked clear and easy to read. There is a great feel of tidiness to Tullahought, that is not achieved in all communities of similar size.

Residential Areas:

Private houses in Tullahought impressed and great local pride in private houses presentation was noted. Good landscaping complimented the scene at many properties and colourful displays blended well into the natural landscape.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Well maintained stone walls are a key feature on several of your approach roads. The main approaches impressed with fine grassy margins, some of them quite wide. The adjudicator was impressed by the fact that you have taken your work on the main approaches far outside the village core. The painting of field gates was observed and commended. Some bank trimming, not in the period March to August, might be considered for the road past the Sports Field and the road towards the Slate Quarries.

General Impression:

It was a great pleasure to visit Tullahought on a sunny June morning. You are making great progress and we look forward to seeing further progress next year.