

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Urlingford** Ref: **406**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **234**
Category: **B** Date(s): **03/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	24
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	234

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Urlingford to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. Unfortunately, the entry form was rather sparsely completed and did not provide much helpful detail. It was difficult therefore, to identify work that was new for 2009 as distinct from projects completed previously. The map did not mark any new work carried out for Tidy Towns and did not name roads and streets. This made life a little difficult for the adjudicator. With a large committee of 15 and a regular meeting schedule, the submission was surprising. The above points are not intended in any way as criticism, but rather as guidance for future submissions. It was most disappointing to see that you do not have any agency support. Have you been in touch with the County Council, LEADER and all local groups to see if they can help you? The photographs and press cutting were most interesting. For next year, can you include a copy of your 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan? If you do not have one, then this can be prepared by the Tidy Towns Committee.

The Built Environment:

The Library building is extremely well landscaped, but would be greatly improved if painted in a bright colour. It was sad to see that The mason's Apron has closed. Can you talk to the owner to see if some cosmetic work can be done on the façade? Outside JJ Kavanagh's premises, the raised landscaped area was much admired together with the recently cut grass strip in front. On Main Street, the long façade of the Hayes premises caught the eye. This appears to be an old shop front and interesting detailing was noted. The red colour used here works quite well. The Texaco premises was attractively presented. As reported last year, improvements to many premises are necessary. At some individual premises, the removal of projecting signage and the hiding of wirescape in itself would make a significant improvement to the built environment in Urlingford. Can you begin to talk to local businesses along these lines?

Landscaping:

In this context the, Emerald Gardens were mentioned, but no details of any sort were provided in terms of work carried out for this year. The large landscaped area at the northern end of the town on the right is excellently presented and the trees here have matured very well. Weed growth at kerbing along here needed attention. Beyond the School, near the 80 KPH signage, some landscaping with seating was admired. Colourful planters, hanging baskets and window boxes have been used to good effect this year.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The 4 mile Nature Trail Walk in The Islands was the only project mentioned under this category as being new for 2009. Well done on this and the information panel at the Library was noted. What further projects have you in mind for wildlife and natural amenities in the few years ahead? Have you considered a wildlife survey?

Litter Control:

Apart from the normal litter collection, no new projects were indicated here. Litter was evident in some of the housing estates visited and in the Bring Centre Car Park. The Bring Centre itself was quite well presented. Along the Mill Road, littering was quite bad and also around the Hall. In the parking area, near Pizza House, a lot of litter was noted and also further back along the Main Street. Based on last year's report there has been a decline in litter control in Urlingford.

Waste Minimisation:

No projects were mentioned under this category. This section is about reducing the amount of waste generated in Urlingford. Recycling then comes into play. Can you talk with local businesses about waste reduction possibilities and recycling?

Tidiness:

Weed control was noted as your project under this heading. However, kerb side weed growth was noted at the landscaped area at the top of the town. At Togher Way, massive weeds were noted along both sides of the entrance roadway. The area at the end of this estate was very untidy, with dumping evident.

Residential Areas:

No projects were listed here. In the estates visited, the problems noted were weed growth at kerbs, which is so easy to resolve. Litter was a difficulty in some areas and poor road surfacing in others. At the entrance to Emerald Gardens, the various sculptures were much admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the approach by Nevins, an uncut bank on the left and narrow verge on the right needed attention. On the Johnstown, a grassy sloping bank needed to be cut. On the Togher Road, a blank steel sign frame was noted. The fine wide street is a key characteristic of Urlingford and the approach from the Dublin sides creates a great first impression of Urlingford.

General Impression:

Good luck with your work for 2010, when we look forward to having a detailed submission from you.