

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrigkerry** Ref: **1995**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **198**
Category: **A** Date(s): **10/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	400	198

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Carrigkerry to the 2009 Tidy Towns National Competition as a new and first time entry. Thank you for your entry form and sketch map from the Carrigkerry Community Council. It is good to note that you have a committee of five members and that you receive support from FAS. You indicate that the level of voluntary commitment is present, which denotes a strong interest by the local community in work which benefits the village. We hope you will find the experience an enjoyable and worthwhile one, not only in 2009 but for future years. There were some categories in your entry form which were not fully completed and for which marks are available once completed in full.; these included: the Built Environment; Wildlife and Natural Amenities; Waste Minimisation and General Impression.

Your communication with the broader community by public meetings and through the local papers is positive and will help in spreading the news about Tidy Town's activities in Carrigkerry. We would recommend that you set up some links with the national school either through visits by a member of your committee to explain the work of your committee or by inviting a member of the Board of Management or a member of the Parents Association to meet with your Tidy Towns Committee. A further suggestion is that your committee would prepare a very short, concise three year action plan for 2010-2012. This plan would assist you to set Aims and Objectives, and establish some targets for the next three years. The plan once complete, would help you in any discussions, for funding or otherwise, with FAS or the County Council or indeed with other potential partners. While the plan is being prepared, you should consult with the local community to gather opinions and meet with the County Council to take on board some of their ideas. There is no need to get a professional to draw up the plan; it could be done by your committee over a few months into the winter. The plan should be drawn up using the different categories in the entry form, e.g. The Built Environment, Landscaping etc. And when completed will enable you to fully complete the entry form and therefore achieve more marks in this particular category of Overall Development Approach. Another approach is to visit other villages and towns, and meet with their Tidy Towns Committees and thus, learn from their experiences.

The Built Environment:

We note from the entry form that there were no new projects undertaken for Tidy Towns activities in 2009. There are some fine buildings in the village and their owners deserve credit for their presentation. The Church is located in an elevated site. However, it is suggested that some thought be given to the removal of the evergreen trees that grow on both sides of the lovely church structure. Also, some suspended hanging baskets of flowers in front of the church would benefit the overall scene. The floodlights were noted. If the trees were removed it would help brighten the lovely features of the church once it is floodlit. The Grotto is a lovely feature surrounded by nice floral displays, which compliment the overall scene.

The National School was set in well maintained grounds, but looked in need of repainting, the boundary wall and the entrance gates were in most need of cleaning and painting. Some nice hanging baskets, filled with summer planting, would assist to soften the image. Of course, while the school is closed, it makes maintenance of flowers a difficult task. The newly planted Ash trees in the green area will develop over the years. Stevo's Daybreak Shop and complex is a well maintained property and is kept in a very good condition. Moore's Bar, complete with lovely hanging baskets, also looked well, but the car park will look so much better once fully completed. The Community Centre also plays a vital role in the community and looks well except for the rather stark wire surrounding fence. There are some lovely individual residences and also terraced houses in the village, well done to all residents on their presentation.

Landscaping:

Some nice landscaping is seen at the individual houses in Carrigkerry. The Village Park is currently under construction and the work to date is impressive with many new young trees planted, and the infrastructure of pathways is taking shape. The imposing swan sculpture is a good centrepiece for the park. The two stone walls from the roadway are eye catching. The park overlooks the Daar River and will be a nice facility for the village when finished. The Grotto was nicely presented, with nice floral displays. The shrubbery, at the entrance to the village, was impressive and tidy as was the planted flowers at the gate opposite the Daybreak Shop.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

No information was given in your entry form for this category of Wildlife and Natural Amenities. We would recommend, you could organise a Wildlife Habitat Survey for Carrigkerry on indigenous birdlife and wildlife found in the vicinity. You could get involved in encouraging the growth of natural wild flowers in the hedgerows around the village, this is a good place to start when planning a bio-diverse habitat which will nourish and encourage wildlife in the area. When the glossary of wild flowers has been completed, perhaps the local school children and teachers could be involved in the organisation of the survey of existing wildlife in the area, and the results could then be used to decide what plants and facilities need to be provided. It is always advisable to seek guidance from someone with good knowledge of wildlife and natural habitats, in this respect the County Council may be able to help with contacts.

The Village Park, currently under construction, will be the ideal location for some wildlife and birdlife Interpretative Panel Displays. The riverside is a wonderful amenity within the village and should be very successful in attracting a wide range of birds and wildlife. The walks in the area will encourage participants to appreciate the importance of providing an environment to protect and nurture native wildlife.

Litter Control:

In general, the village looked mainly free of litter and obviously the weekly programme of litter clean up sessions is a very good initiative and has paid dividends. However, there was some litter e.g. plastic bottles, soft drink cans, crisp bags and other associated small pieces of litter to be seen. There should be more litter bins in the village

Waste Minimisation:

Your entry form had no projects listed in this category. The recycling centre at the garage was in a less than clean condition. Litter was visible in front of the recycle bins. Your National School should make attempts to achieve Green Flag status in the coming year if possible. Ongoing liaison with the County Council is vital. Use of the local Newspapers to communicate the waste minimisation messages is a suggested strategy

Tidiness:

The grass margins on approach roads are in a good condition and neatly maintained. Walls throughout the

village were in mainly good condition. The bilingual signs on the approaches to the village were clean and were enhanced by the raised stone flowerbeds. Some sections of the school railing and wall were less than clean and should be painted. While signage throughout the village was generally in a good condition, a white directional sign for Athea/Listowel and Ardagh/Newcastlewest needed to be cleaned. At the back of this sign, the concrete fence was in a bad condition and needed to be repaired. Weed growth is always difficult to control but the village looked clean and tidy in general.

The removal of overhead wires is always a laudable aim but in the current economic climate this is difficult. We would suggest that you contact the service providers to discuss the possibility of having them placed underground. The general clean up by members of FAS project is of benefit to the village. The front barriers at the housing/commercial construction site near the church are in a less than perfect state. While the flower beds opposite the shop/garage are nice, the gate leading to the fields is in need of repair.

Residential Areas:

The village possesses a good stock of individual residences, both traditional cottages and examples of modern architecture. There are some lovely individual residences and also terraced houses in the village, well done to all residents on their presentation. The recently development 'Rooskagh' housing estate, of some ten lovely homes, is impressive with its nice green area and stone boundary wall in front. The footpath outside is an important safety feature for pedestrians. St. Mary's Terrace looked well and when the new village park nearby, currently under construction, is complete will further improve the scene. It's a pity that the commercial and housing development, Ardmoyle, appears unfinished and still a work in progress.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Some signposts at the approach roads and within the village itself could do with painting or a cleanup at least. Hedges are well trimmed by the church. While the roads were in fairly good condition, there were a few potholes at various locations.

General Impression:

Congratulations on your entry and work you have achieved to date. Carrigkerry is a small village in a beautiful part of Limerick. We wish you success with your current and future Tidy Towns projects. Keep up the good work and stay positive.