

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Edenderry** Ref: **550**  
County: **Offaly** Mark: **216**  
Category: **E** Date(s): **06/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	15
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	11
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>216</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Go raibh maith agaibh go leir! Thank you to all the voluntary workers who have gone to so much trouble this year and in previous years to make Edenderry an ever improving place in which to live and work, and to enjoy. Welcome back to the competition after a year's absence!

For the size of the town, the membership may be a bit on the low size. You have 12 meetings per year, and you work with schools and community groups.

Edenderry Credit Union, Tedders Chemists and Offaly County Council are your supporters.

Newspapers, word of mouth, and phone calls are your chosen means of communication.

Most of your schools have the Green Flag. We are glad that you think the TidyTowns Competition is great.

The idea of having the Gardens competition is a good one, and must mean a lot of hard work for you.

Thank you for your annotated photographs. They showed some buildings of note. They also showed spring flowering projects.

The maps submitted, while covering the centre helped in no way with the outskirts/approach roads. The map simply named a few streets, but in no way assisted in identifying projects. Please submit a better map for the town next year, as yours is a big town.

Your five year plan is very simple – 1 page. You would need to elaborate on your actions and consider them in more detail under each heading. What community input went into the plan? A plan need not be prepared

professionally. However, you should try to get the views of the community at large when preparing the plan and take into account other plans for the area such as Local Area Plans / County Development Plans prepared by the Local Authority under the Planning and Development Act 2000/ County Heritage Plans/ Agenda 21 Plans etc..

### **The Built Environment:**

There are good entrance gates and railings at St. Mary's. Gaelscoil Eadan Doire has a nice stone wall and hedge, although a trim would be good and a little weeding (Outside).

The Famine Graveyard near the Fire Station was noted. The Fire Station itself looks bleak compared with the remainder of the complex, and the security railings need planting.

Oaklands College has a gate needing painting to the side elevation (dark Green). Otherwise, it is nicely presented.

The Garda Station looked very well with lovely blue and white painting, and security rails to match! It has nice timber windows. The house beside the Garda Station needs its walls painted, and the walls outside both need painting. There are nice railings on the descent toward the town. Bella Vista is well presented.

The railings and gates at the church on the Tullamore approach need rust treatment and maintenance. There is a very attractive row of cottages opposite the church. One is rather neglected.

The Parish Pastoral Centre has an interesting shamrock motif on the railings, which (the railings) could do with some painting.

St. Mary's Convent National School looked well with attractive wall creeper.

Unfortunately, there is a lot of dereliction in the main streets. We hope that these buildings get a new lease of life with the expansion of the town. We just ask you to encourage the owners to keep them neat and tidy,

remove weed growth, graffiti and litter from their precincts.

The Quakers Meeting House is an interesting building.

In JKL, Street Harbour House is neat with a nice blue arched gable. The house with the wonderful doorcase, steps, and good original sash windows was admired. Tedders Pharmacy with its floral displays and Byrnes Bar opposite looked well.

There are a lot of projecting signs, and external lighting fittings which look ugly. At McGreals, Christmas lights are still in situ in mid summer.

The Town Hall in Town Hall Square looked well. The old roofless cinema looks sad, and quite poorly when viewed from the side of the square. However, it is an interesting façade of its period. Raleigh/Moran needs paint and the window, and door need renewal as well as plastic sign removal

The Fisherman's Rest (B&B) is neat and bright. Eden House opposite is not so.

Sheehy Bros. site looks poorly.

An Cuan Cistin is using an Irish signage identification and this is good, although the literal translation was questioned.

### **Landscaping:**

The Harbour area looked very well, and was neat and tidy. It is a wonderful amenity to have in the centre of the town, and, it would appear, is being respected.

The seating around the bridge on the Tullamore approach is nice, and the Edenderry sign has a nice floral setting.

The grounds of Teach Uibh Fhaile are well landscaped (although there is a broken planter outside).

There is lovely planting at County Offaly VEC Further Education Centre, with further planting along the road outside. Facing this is a nicely planted Older Persons type housing cluster.

The Church grounds and the ground of the Pastoral Centre on the Tullamore approach are very well landscaped and maintained.

The renewal/planting and modern street lighting in JKL Street is effective, and good undergrounding has been carried out. This is a good example to emulate, and it is good that it is at the centre of the town, as it sets the standard to be achieved radiating outwards from that area.

In general, the bins throughout the town need renewal. The Church Walk is a wonderful place with its old yew trees

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The planting of baskets at the Canal Harbour will do little to encourage wildlife, as what is needed for wildlife – animals and flowers - is native natural habitats, so just maintain these in this area and others. The maintenance of flower beds is a landscaping project. However, there is much that you can do in this regard to increase the enjoyment and educational value of local areas. You will be well advised by the agencies with whom you have good relationships, for example The Heritage Section of Offaly County Council. Do you have a young person studying Environmental Science in a 3rd level institution from the area who might require a thesis topic? The provision of a wildlife survey and management plan contributes to the marks in this section. Remember to endeavour to do this for 2010! Findings can subsequently be made public on information panels. This more detailed information would add to the enjoyment of your town for local and visitors alike, and would serve good educational purposes. In relation to this, please be sure to put design research into the proposed notice boards themselves. With such a good record in renewal in the town, be consistent in having such new street furniture designed in an innovative and appropriate fashion. And you should also ensure that the Irish names for all species are included. Do remember too that when you are choosing any street furniture, that black is the most difficult colour for visually impaired people to see.

### **Litter Control:**

You do clean ups with the schools, and well done to Oaklands students!

There was a little litter in the footpath at one point in the Sycamores. There was some litter around the perimeter of the Fire Station., and the litter bin was grubby and dated.

The roadway up to Brian's Park/ Derry Rovers AFC and the "wasteland" between this and the Fire Station area was littered in many places on adjudication day.

A large amount of litter was found in the access road and beyond to Tesco. There is graffiti in the area beside Sheehy's near Clonmullen Street.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

You again refer to clean ups here. Clean ups really refer to the Litter Section, and without these you have no entry under this section.

Waste minimisation involves the prevention of waste accumulation in the first case. It is really what it says – to minimise on waste production before we, as a community, private or public create it in the first case. You can refer to the Race Against Waste booklet available from the Tidy Towns Unit of the Department of the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government. .

You could increase your marks considerably in this section. Perhaps, you might prepare a flyer/newsletter on this subject? As a local community you could look at some innovative and simple ideas such as organising a "Bring and Take Day". This would involve using a local hall / Community Centre for instance for a day - where everybody brings items they have no further use for, but which other people might want (and which under normal circumstances they might get rid of as waste), and puts them on display. The corollary is that somebody else needs these items. No monies change hands. Website versions of this idea have been set up in places also. Another group collected all broken crockery, and made a mosaic in a local park. (Not the Green!) You can gain marks by doing something like this for 2010.

### **Tidiness:**

Some of the letters in Teach Uibh Fhaile are missing. The walls also need repainting. The Statoil garage on the Daingean approach has broken balustrades to one side.

Gates across from the church on the Tullamore approach, in an old in/out entrance, require painting.

The gates and security fencing around the Derry Rovers AFC grounds are badly in need of screening/softening. This general area has bent bollards, and the approach road has a lot of weeds. There was a container outside the boundary of the pitch.

St. Mary's Secondary School boundary wall needs painting, and weeding at the foot of the boundary wall; otherwise it looked well.

The Acorn Project building nearby needs paint (it still has original front elevation) ,as does the pole on the stop sign adjacent. The derelict site beside has a nice doorcase..

The Citizens Information building is clean, but displays too many notices which make it look untidy. The two storey building, with weeds outside, "For Sale" is uncared for – especially the gable. The Edenderry Business Park has a headless pole outside. The wall is cracked at the park and the signage is very dirty on top of the nice stone wall with weeds protruding. There are too many signs on the gable facing the Tullamore side. And there were dirty bins at the Harbour Deli.

The Civic Amenity site needs softening/planting at the security fence and also removal of ragwort, which is protruding through the fence. Otherwise, it is presented neatly.

The Auburn Lodge and other signs are rusty.

The worst untidiness was on the Dublin Road approach, and this is also part of the assessment here.

**Residential Areas:**

The Kileder estate on the Daingean Road with red brick houses is well landscaped and maintained.

The Sycamores is well landscaped with the green cut well. The signs at the Sycamores are very dirty. The paths are weed free.

Boyne Meadows (Dublin Road) has good trees, but there were weeds at the entrance

Carrick Hall, close to the centre, has nice trees and is well kept

Churchview Heights estate is very well kept, apart from the burnt out house at the end of the estate. This is a pity, as it takes from the overall efforts of the residents and Local Authority.

Well done on the flowerbed in Clonmullen Drive.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The Daingean Road has a lot of signs that are dirty and battered inward of the Clonbullogue junction. The Lions Club boulder looks well, but there is a lot of unofficial signage stuck in the grass margin, and it looks cluttered in the area of the GAA. The trees look well and the grass is well cut. Some of the taller signs are obscured by vegetation, including the sign which says "Bring your litter home". The bridge needs cleaning, and the unofficial caravan site on the Canal Bank/ Grand Canal Way did not look well. The concrete fencing on the eastern side of the bridge was broken, but both sides of the road have nice trees. The Dutch gable house with tyres in the forecourt needs screening.

The road off Mary's Road has a Dunnes Store access with a nice old shed complex opposite.

The Dublin Road is very poor in presentation. The area at the Golf Club Junction is cluttered with signs. "The Welcome to Offaly" signs are obscured with noxious weeds - ragwort. There is some dereliction also in this area. The Kia garage is well presented. The Offaly County Council pumping station has nice trees surrounding the structure, but it looks decrepit, and is surrounded by weeds. There is broken concrete fencing around a nice green area. The road sign for Carbury, Enfield, Clane, Kilcock, Broadford and Dublin is dirty. Lamps are tilted and there are weeds along the footpath in places. The Tesco side road is all right as far as Tesco turn-off. There is further ragwort growth, and unauthorised caravan parking at its end. It is "cut off" with ugly concrete structures. The roadway has litter, weeds, and some nice wild poppies –its only redeeming feature! The Fiat garage requires softening and Esso, and Supermac's also. Aldi has good tree planting.

**General Impression:**

The general impression of Edenderry is of a town which has grown quickly, and lost some of its "manageability" as a result. You probably have a lot of Dublin commuters living in what, was once a quiet village. It is going to take time to play "catch up" environmentally. But you have good streetscapes, if a little run down, and you have very good amenities in the Canal basin and elsewhere. You will need to engage with the new residents, and look to them to be responsible also for what was your town, but is now a shared responsibility. You are interested enough to do this and we wish you the best of luck.