

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Collooney** Ref: **807**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **201**
Category: **B** Date(s): **03/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	8
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	20
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	201

Overall Development Approach:

Collooney Tidy Towns Committee is welcome to the 2009 competition. You would appear to have a good working relationship with the local community and businesses, who are offering more and more support to you in your work, as the years go by. Sligo County Council and the Heritage Council also seem to be of great support to you in your work.

The Built Environment:

There has been a lot of development in the town since the adjudicator's last visit - not that many years ago! The Church of Ireland was greatly admired as ever, and it was well maintained, as was the Methodist Church. We were pleased to hear that there are plans afoot to paint the Credit Union building. Plans in regard to the playground and street survey were read of with interest. The steps of the St Paul's National School were looking a little grubby. The Post Office and commercial premises generally looked well cared for on the day. We noted plans to improve the appearance of the Credit Union and would suggest that the boundary wall of the funeral home be painted, as it was also in need of attention. The modern pharmacy was admired, although a facade opposite looked quite neglected. Do ensure that the render is not removed from the facades of traditional vernacular buildings. This is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view but can also lead to problems with water penetration. The bridge, in its prominent location, would benefit from a fresh coat of paint. Quigley's Bar looked well with its original timber sash windows. Their retention is commendable.

Landscaping:

A prominent landscaping feature at the main junction of the town was fenced off on the day and will no doubt be revealed in the not too distant future. The daffodils must have been a marvellous display in the springtime. The maintenance of planters throughout the town is to be applauded, and these looked well on the day. We were pleased to hear that work will finally take place at the Teeling monument due to a heritage grant. This

area has long been sadly neglected. Plans for tree planting along grass verges are looked forward to. The biodiversity management plan will play a large part in this aspect of the competition. The grotto and Catholic Church were well maintained. The Innishfree Crystal premises would benefit from a fresh coat of paint.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We were pleased to hear of the grant you have received from the Heritage Council and are sure it will be put to good use, with the ecological study and biodiversity management plan. The proposed signage at the riverside, and creation of a pond in Union Woods are good initiatives, as are the moth-catching morning and plans for a wildlife expert to visit the school.

Litter Control:

The standard in this category was quite good on the day. The work you have done in relation to clean ups and dumping is to your credit. Proposed anti-litter signage in the centre of the town and roundabout are looked forward to. Some litter was evident on the Coolaney Road.

Waste Minimisation:

The highlighting of the Recycling Centre was a good initiative. We were sorry to hear of the vandalism that took place in this location and were pleased that it was resolved satisfactorily. It looked to be well maintained on the day. The fact that the County Council are going to compost their cuttings is very reassuring. The publication of the promotion of best practice in regards to this category of the competition is an excellent idea.

Tidiness:

The standard in this category of the competition was reasonable. We look forward to your work in relation to graffiti and weed control. The "Give it a Swirl" Day was an interesting and worthwhile initiative. Good luck with your FAS scheme. Weeds were evident to kerbsides further out on the Dromahair Road, including the graveyard wall which was in need of some attention - this area may be outside of your remit?

Residential Areas:

New housing estates are evident throughout the town. Your work in contacting the enforcement section of the council regarding unfinished developments is applauded and hopefully this will continue to have effect. The anti-litter grant received by Abhainn Mor will no doubt be put to good use. The fact that residents' associations are still active is heartening. Hopefully the FAS schemes will go ahead and prove helpful in this category of the competition. The garden overflowing the wall of the playing pitches was greatly admired. Some of the houses and gardens in the vicinity of the schools were a little neglected in comparison with the generally high standard in this category. Rowan Tree Gardens looked well. Radharc na gCaislean would benefit from landscaping.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The street and road survey will no doubt have been useful to you in your work. Hopefully the traffic management plan will take place in the not too distant future. Weed control was a problem at the top of the town in the vicinity of the schools.

General Impression:

It was a number of years since this adjudicator had visited Collooney and it was good to see that it has continued to maintain a high standard.