

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Easkey** Ref: **788**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **227**
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	227

Overall Development Approach:

Easkey Community Council is welcome to the 2009 competition. You would appear to have a good working relationship with statutory bodies such as Sligo County Council, FAS, Leader etc as well as with local groups such as Easkey Family Resource Centre. Your application form was clear and detailed and showed the full extent of your work to date. Your map was useful on the day but perhaps for next year you could include all areas on one clear map, fold it down to fit in the application form if necessary.

The Built Environment:

The charming Church of Ireland was admired, as was the Catholic Church in its dramatic location. New stone walling was taking place at the boundary wall of the GAA pitch. The buildings along the Main Street generally looked well although some, sadly, appeared to have gone out of business. The school on the Sligo Road was well presented and sported new signage, Colaiste Iascaigh. The stone walling was also admired. The Primary Daycare Centre was well presented, as was the Family Resource Centre. There is a good use of the Irish language throughout the village. Iascaigh House and Fisherman's Weir were both very fresh, as was the Village Store. Weeds were apparent in the gutter of the Garda Station. Don't forget gable walls when considering overall presentation. The refurbishing of the courthouse was another good project.

Landscaping:

This is an area of the competition you obviously enjoy. The landscaping at the grotto looked very well, as ever, with its stone walling. The riverside area is as pleasant as ever, and we were pleased to hear of your ongoing development of same. The Roslea graveyard area was well maintained. The Community Garden at the Family Resource Centre was a good initiative. The planting of native hedging at the old factory was a good idea, and the new picnic area is looked forward to. The wildflower garden at the riverside was another good idea. The statue at Easkey House was fresh and well presented.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your efforts in this category of the competition have been excellent over the years and this year is no exception. The wildflower bed behind the Old Abbey was a good initiative, as was the ongoing maintenance and improvements to the nature walk and bird boxes. The project at the old factory is certainly an interesting one.

Litter Control:

The standard in this category was quite good on the day. Your monthly clean-ups in conjunction with Sligo County Council are obviously paying dividends as is your ongoing monitoring of black spots. Some litter was apparent at the old hotel on the Sligo Road, on the Enniscrone Road and at the recycling area, however. The inclusion of the schools in your activities is a good initiative.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling area was very neat in itself at its location beside the community centre. Your work in this category has also been excellent. Your community composting project is an excellent initiative, supplying compost as it does to the newly established community garden. The inclusion of new estates in this project is even more impressive, as it gets newcomers involved in your work straight away! The segregation of litter in your clean ups is also an excellent idea. The organic garden and compost project at the secondary school sounds most interesting.

Tidiness:

The standard in this category was quite good, although some weeds were apparent in a number of locations, such as pavements on the Ballina, Enniscrone and Sligo approaches, and on the road leading down to the Catholic Church. The old hotel(?) on the Sligo approach continues to be a problem, it unfortunately, did not get restored during the economic boom years. The area at the community centre is quite rough at the moment, as work is ongoing there, hopefully it will be neat and tidy once work it is complete in this location. There were some attractive out buildings on the Enniscrone Road which would benefit from a paint, one appeared to be ear-marked for development, which presumably will not now take place due to the economic climate?

Residential Areas:

Houses along approach roads and in the village centre were well maintained. Housing estates such as that with timber fencing on the Sligo Road looked well, with attractive gardens. The open space at Woodland Crescent was in need of trimming. There was damage to signage at an estate on the Sligo Road and the side wall to their forecourt area was badly stained. An attractive house with fanlight and original sash windows on the Sligo side of the village was greatly admired. We were interested to hear that local residents care for their own areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach from Sligo was reasonable, although the Children Crossing sign was damaged. The Enniscrone approach road was reasonable with ditches cut, but dead grass not removed. It affords the traveller a magnificent view of the sea and sported some jaunty yellow bog irises, peeping over the ditches.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Easkey after a number of years, it is a very pleasant village in a dramatic location. You are obviously a community which shows great pride in its village. Well done to all concerned.