

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Riverstown** Ref: **417**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **261**
Category: **B** Date(s): **03/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	261

Overall Development Approach:

Riverstown TidyTowns Committee is one which has shown great pride in the appearance of its village for many years now and continues to do so. You have a large committee for the size of the village and this obviously helps immensely with your work! It was heartening to hear that you had taken on board and tackled the issues raised in last year's report. We note that you are commencing a new Five Year Plan and wish you all the best with this. Your map was most clear and useful on the day. The Forge had been freshly whitewashed. You would appear to have a good working relationship with various national and local bodies including the school and An Taisce. Photographs of your work nights certainly give a good impression of the hard work and commitment of all concerned.

The Built Environment:

The standard in this category of the competition was very good with much evidence of recent and ongoing activity to improve and maintain the appearance of the structures and architecture of the village. What was particularly impressive was attention to outbuildings which had been freshly whitewashed and their tin roofs brightly painted in red. The Post Office was well presented and the churches looked well. The National School was particularly bright and freshly painted. It was good to note the use of Irish on shopfronts, which is obviously encouraged by the TidyTowns Committee. The Co-Op and Mace were very fresh in their central location. The Health Centre was very fresh. The boundary wall of Little Buddies could do with a fresh coat of paint before next year's competition, it appeared a little patchy on the day.

Landscaping:

This is an aspect of the competition which you evidently enjoy greatly. The landscaped stepped feature at the centre of the village looked very elegant and landscaped features on approach roads made for a welcoming effect. The meandering layout of the town make for some great opportunities for incidental landscaped

spaces. The freshly painted concrete bench in the village centre made a good impression. The grassy bank near the Catholic Church was well maintained. The community park has matured well and was being well used on the day.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

This is an area of the competition that you are tackling very well. The proposal for an outdoor classroom for the school is an interesting and unusual one. The provision of additional bat boxes and bird hides are a welcome proposal. It was pleasing to hear that you are maintaining the information boards on local wildlife, although that opposite the Folk Park looked to be in need of upgrading on the day.

Litter Control:

The standard in this category of the competition could have been better on the day. Some litter including papers and abandoned bottles were evident blowing along the centre area of the village. This may have been due to the busy nature of the bank holiday weekend. Your frequent litter picks are an excellent initiative and must pay great dividends.

Waste Minimisation:

We were pleased to note that the recycling area is well used and that you are well underway to promoting its use among the local community and visitors. It was heartening to hear that local businesses take an active part in recycling. Your work in regard to composting was noted and is laudable.

Tidiness:

The standard in this category of the competition was very good. The village having a neat and well maintained appearance as ever on a warm June day! Even derelict properties had been freshly whitewashed. However, do discourage flyposting as it can give a rather cluttered appearance to roadsides.

Residential Areas:

New housing estates throughout the country have made an impact on small towns and villages - not always in a positive way! Therefore it was heartening to see that those in Riverstown are fitting in so well, by means of careful design and choice of materials. This may be down to the hard work and effort shown by the committee in their negotiations with the local authority and developers. The gatelodge on the Ballygawley Road was greatly admired. Houses were generally well maintained with attractive gardens. The tree planting to the housing estate opposite the Catholic Church was coming along well. An attractive garden filled with peony roses was admired on the Heapstown Road. Many houses have gone to the trouble of planting hanging baskets and window boxes, giving a cheerful and colourful impression.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads were extremely well maintained and we were pleased to hear that you had such an active part in their appearance. Verges were well cut and signage was clean. The retention of the square traditional sign on the Ballymote approach is commendable. The road surfaces on approach roads and in the centre of the village is very potholed and we were pleased to note that you have talked to the County Council about this issue. Hopefully it will be resolved in the not too distant future. Attractive rhododendron bushes were noted on the Ballygawley Road.

General Impression:

It was a number of years since this adjudicator had visited Riverstown and it was delightful to see that it is as charming and well maintained as ever. Congratulations to all concerned!