

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Strandhill** Ref: **761**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **203**
Category: **C** Date(s): **05/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	203

Overall Development Approach:

Strandhill Community Development Association is welcome to the 2009 competition. A lot of change and development has taken place in Strandhill since you last entered the competition in 1996; indeed much change had taken place since the adjudicator last visited the town far more recently! As you are a new committee it will be important for you to plan out your strategy for the town's future. Putting together a work programme for the next 3 or 5 years would be a good place to start. You should concentrate on the different categories of the competition and set goals for each of them. It is also important that you put a timeframe against achieving these objectives. A map of the town would have been useful on adjudication day - as previously mentioned, it has expanded dramatically in the last number of years. We look forward to seeing the fruits of your labours at the Community Park and the church ruins.

The Built Environment:

There has been a lot of change in the town over the years, much in the housing sector. Try to ensure that all developments are in keeping with the town's character in terms of design, materials used and landscaping. The commercial premises of the town were generally well presented, of note being the Dunes Tavern, in the process of being painted, the Strand Bar and Bella Vista. Beach Stores, particularly at the gable, will need painting before next year's competition, rust staining was apparent to Neptune Stores. There was some staining apparent to the church gable, and work appeared to be taking place here. The Venue is an attractive traditional pub. Shells was quite fresh, and the Maritime Centre. The Seaweed Baths also sported some staining.

Landscaping:

There were some attractive landscaped features at road junctions etc but further scope for development in this category of the competition. Of particular note was the large carpark in the centre of the town. Although some

planting was evident at perimeters of the space, it is very large and at the moment very bare. Additional tree planting and planted beds would soften its somewhat harsh appearance, indeed the existing trees did not appear to have taken. The modern sculpture on the seafront was admired. The planters at the seafront car park had yet to be planted up.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It would be worthwhile putting together a wildlife/habitat survey, as Strandhill benefits from such a unique and magnificent location. Contact local experts with a view to them drawing up such a survey - the local schoolchildren could also get involved. Once this is complete, you could look at setting up a wildlife management plan with a view to promoting and developing this aspect of the competition. Your walks sound like a good initiative, perhaps a leaflet could be drawn up to accompany them?

Litter Control:

The standard in this category was quite good on the day, given that Strandhill is such a busy town with many visitors, particularly on a fine summer's day. Have you looked at putting together a strategy for this category? Do you have clean up days? Do you take part in the National Spring Clean? Do you liaise with local schools to enlist their help? A few papers were evident on the Sligo road and to the central car park area.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category in the competition since your last year of entry and deals with your approach to recycling. Do you segregate the litter you pick up on clean up days? Do you compost grass cuttings? Do you make the local community aware of these issues - businesses, household, and schools? We were pleased to hear of your participation in the school's Green Flag initiative. The recycling area was quite neat and well used on the day.

Tidiness:

The standard in this category was reasonably good on the day, with little evidence of untidiness. Things to consider in this category are outbuildings as well as houses and shops, graffiti, weed control etc. An old shed on the Ballisodare Road was in need of a fresh coat of paint. A derelict cottage on the Sligo Road looked unfortunate.

Residential Areas:

The housing estates were generally well cared for on the day, of note being Atlantic View with its well maintained open space and Radharc na Mara. Some individual houses adjacent to this estate made a good impression. Do you encourage local estates to enter the Best Kept Estates Competition organised by Sligo County Council. Have you considered organising a Best Kept Garden/Estate Competition? How many of the estates are lived in year round? Does this have an impact on your work? A lovely garden was admired opposite the nameplate sign on the Ballisodare Road. Always consider boundary walls when looking at this category of the competition.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads were reasonable on the day but could do with more attention. The Ballisodare Road was well maintained, with well cut verges and clean signage, ditches, overhanging trees and stone walls. The planting at the junction of the Ballisodare and Sligo roads was admired. Wild daisies were admired opposite.

General Impression:

Strandhill is a unique town set in some marvellous scenery and next to the wild Atlantic Ocean. It is a dramatic setting and quite unusual. Do ensure that you do your best to preserve its unique character.