

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Carrick-on-Suir** Ref: **301**  
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **254**  
Category: **E** Date(s): **04/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	19
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>254</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Congratulations to the Carrick-on-Suir TidyTowns Committee for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission and for your map. A hand drawn sketch of the town, which highlights the places you regard as being most important for the TidyTowns Competition, would be of greater assistance to the adjudicator, in addition to the town map you enclosed. Last year's adjudicator mentioned the advisability of compiling a 3-5 Year Plan. The exercise of compiling such a plan would help focus your ambitions for Carrick-on-Suir in this competition, would enable you to set immediate and medium term targets for yourselves, would help you to examine the effectiveness of your engagement with the local bodies and agencies. As all projects need funding, you would set down in your plan how you propose to fund these various projects. It is heartening to read that you encourage the schools to gain Green Flag Status and that those schools are being successful. Your committee seems to have the confidence of the Town Council and staff, as they consult you on landscaping and general Carrick-on-Suir enhancement.

### **The Built Environment:**

The built environment of Carrick-on-Suir seems as if it is constantly renewing itself. The Strand Theatre being a prime example. The Cloth Hall and Ironmonger signs on mainstreet echo a type of commerce, alien to the discount store now operating underneath. Kehoes butchers corner transports one to an idyllic French village. The Bank of Ireland building, Nano Nagle Centre and the AIB are all fine. Mary's fashions, Taaffe and Co, Murphys and Cooneys all contribute to the town atmosphere. The many revitalised areas of town housing, all freshly painted, all lived in, bring the town centre to life. Buildings are generally well maintained; the Credit Union, the Garda station, the library, the Churches. Many of the shop fronts retain a traditional style. But other more tacky plastic and vinyl ones need to be shunned. Schools add to the built environment of Carrick. The Presentation Convent area presents itself proudly. Comeragh College is a delight and its landscaping brightens up the surroundings. One would love to give the Technical Institute a power wash. The Trócaire

Care Unit and its grounds enhance its area. The Day Care Centre and the Town Council building all add to the built stock of Carrick-on-Suir.

### **Landscaping:**

Your submission promises much and does not fail in provision. All over town, one admires and enjoys the coordinated attempts to bring summer colour to the town. One knows that the hebe beds will change colour to suit the season, that the roses, the begonias, the geraniums will be supplanted by others plants to supply colour at other times to suit the season. Carrick-on-Suir is a gardener's feast. Carrick-on-Suir is fortunate in having wide expanses of green with easy access of the town centre. The Carrick Swans GAA grounds are very well planted and maintained. The pathway leads gently to town. Likewise, the town park is at the heartbeat of the town with seating, walks and tree shade, in case of a summer. The summer colour is delightful and very well maintained. On the way from Clonmel, the Sean Healy Park is superb. The riverside walk to Kilsheelan reveals the motifs on the back of the ogham stones, as we will call them; a surprise and delight. Carrick-on-Suir has everything in readiness for a sunny summer. Even for those waiting for the bus. Well done to the town horticulturalist and his team.

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

Carrick-on-Suir has great possibilities in this section. The length of the river walk to Kilsheelan, that was undertaken by the adjudicator, was wonderful and also served to illustrate the great possibilities of the Suir for Carrick-on-Suir. Mea culpa, but the adjudicator did not find the pond and lost the map somewhere in transit in the vain attempt to find it. Last year's report suggested you undertake an ecological survey of the town. There is no mention of it. The findings of such a survey would guide you in your plans for wildlife and biodiversity over the next few years. Up to now, you have provided access to nature and encouragement of wildlife, and well done. Try to identify what birds and creatures access you, so you can plan accordingly.

### **Litter Control:**

One reads with interest the measures you are taking to keep Carrick-on-Suir litter free. The findings of this report will disappoint. Litter has been mentioned, as a constant companion on the approach roads, in estates, on the street. It is a bitter pill to swallow in light of all the wonderful investment in buildings and in landscaping. Bad enough that the mart be a white elephant, but its condition draws the dumpers like bees to the honey pot. The adjudicator does not think that the town was visited on a particularly bad litter day. Examination of some showed that it had been around for some time.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Segregation of the waste collected is a worthwhile waste minimisation project. Locals know where to find their Bring Bank, so it is great to find them in unobtrusive sites, like opposite the Comeragh College. Your engagement with the schools is central to success in the matter of waste minimisation, as the pupils thrive on inventive schemes. What of your Town Council? What waste minimisation schemes could they promote. The sight of a green flag blowing in the breeze outside a school sends out the right signals.

### **Tidiness:**

Overall, Carrick-on-Suir needs to keep an eye on the image it portrays. There is too much litter and graffiti. Too many signs are in need of a cleaning. There is need for a policy with regard to fly posting. At present, a laissez-faire policy seems to be in force. Maybe if Residents' Associations could be set up in the estates with a view to better management of those estates. It is easy for an adjudicator to make suggestions. You are the people with your finger on the pulse and in the best position to tackle this problem.

### **Residential Areas:**

Many of the new and not so new estates, and terraces are attractive in design, landscaping and maintenance. Cregg Lawns is a fine estate, but the weeds are a worry. Ravensdale does not have the weeds, but needs more landscaping to brighten it up. Ash Park is a fine area of private housing. Greenhill Village has an attractive entrance with ample open space, but litter is again evident. In places, the existing landscaping is in need of attention. Some estates do have both a litter and graffiti problem. The modern housing developments in the town are most attractive and one hopes they serve the town as well as some of the older terraces, which are beautiful.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

A 'Fáilte' sign is more than a welcome. It fills the traveller with anticipation for what is in store. The cycle lanes seem to be appropriate for Carrick-on-Suir. The sight of the Sean Kelly Centre is the Carrick-on-Suir landmark building. We know where we are. The welcome in the landscaping on the N24 is beautiful. But on the approach roads, one notices the litter already. The fly posting distracts from the lovely surroundings. The lanes that led one around the town are a charming feature of the Carrick-on-Suir experience.

**General Impression:**

One is disappointed to read that litter was also a problem last year. It seems irrational that a town, that expresses its soul through beautiful buildings, colourful and thoughtful landscaping, and most generous amenity areas, could have a Jeckl and Hyde personality. There are so many people who obviously care for Carrick-on-Suir. There are also the others.