

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cappoquin** Ref: **853**
County: **Waterford** Mark: **256**
Category: **B** Date(s): **04/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	256

Overall Development Approach:

The overall impression of Cappoquin situated on the Raheen River is one of an Irish village nestling comfortably in its setting, which has retained its charm, while embracing new development in harmony with the existing.

The Built Environment:

The main core of the town contains a handsome stock of two and three storey buildings that date back to earlier generations. These buildings retain many of their original architectural features such as sash windows (which are unfortunately slowly disappearing), ornate doorways and shop fronts. The Barron's Bakery complex on Cook Street is a magnificent presentation of street buildings with a pleasant colour scheme and a high standard of signage. Close by the new housing scheme, Cuil na Circe, being developed at the junction of Cook Street and Mill Street remains unfinished. This is an important vista closing location when viewed from Mill Street and, perhaps some rethought could be given to the redesign of the proposed entrance buildings here. It is to be hoped that the existing town house adjacent to the entrance will be retained and its very fine architectural features preserved. Opposite, the two red brick terrace housing form a lovely vista at the end of the street. The Snooker and Billiard Club house is in need of some attention and grass and weeds are growing from the chimneys. The housing opposite looked magnificent and the planted area to the forecourt has a nice arrangement of planting and street furniture. The reconstruction of street buildings at Main Street, by Danes Yard, was noted and this development will prove a fine addition to this area of the town. On Barrack Street, Walsh's (previously a hotel) performs a very important visual function as a vista closure when viewed from Main Street. This is an important historical building, as it was a soup kitchen and old RIC Barracks and is nicely presented with an appropriate colour scheme. The petrol pumps here need freshening up, but the story board to the rear is a great point of interest. Opposite, Olden General Drapery is a fine example of how a traditional complex of shop fronts should be presented with clear bold lettering and an appropriate colour

scheme. Kelleher's SuperValu is a fine imposing structure with a pleasant colour scheme which would be further enhanced by enlivening the windows with display rather than blanked out. The nearby Ferrick's Pharmacy and Pet Care Store looked magnificent. The National School at Shanbally is the centrepiece to a complex containing a high standard of new development. The surrounding housing, playground, car park, soccer pitch and sports field are a fine example of integrated development. The area was clean, tidy and well presented and bustling with activity on the day of adjudication. It was good to see the school children being coached in the finer points of Waterford hurling by their teacher.

Landscaping:

Cappoquin has a nice variety of landscaping interventions dispersed throughout the town. Some of these are to a very high standard. The Upper Shanbally Park looked magnificent with its water feature centrepiece. The name sign here is well presented. The box hedging shrubberies and flower arrangements, together with the well maintained grassed area, looked extremely well on its elevated sloping site. The grotto on the Mellery Road is a lovely feature and is also well presented. The linear arrangements of flower tubs and planting at Mass Lane are of a high quality, but somewhat disrupted this year by ongoing ground works. On Barrack Street, the green area to the front of the Garda Station and Fire Station was neat and tidy and further along there was a vivid red flower display in a circular stone bed at Glenside that looked spectacular. The hard landscaped area at the old Market House is well presented and the memorial to Michael Kavanagh Fenian is a nice feature. The information board here adds interest, but this item and the seating would need to be freshened up. We look forward to the completion of the proposed enhancement of the Bacon Factory gable.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is noted that the committee have already engaged with the local schools. Perhaps you could also discuss with the schools the possibility of undertaking a wildlife survey of the town and its environs. The results of the survey could then be published on an information panel to heighten awareness of wildlife in the area. The Glenshalane Wood is a fine amenity and would be an ideal location for any such display boards. The identification and marking of individual trees such as alder, sycamore, ash and silver birch in Glenshalane Wood has great educational value. Unfortunately, on the day of adjudication there were twelve plastic bags of household rubbish together with a number of cardboard boxes and bottles discarded here. The information board on the woodlands and general amenities was informative, but is now in need of freshening up as the maps are beginning to fade. The seating, tables and litter bins were well presented. The stone bridge here is a magnificent feature. The Rock area is a wonderful amenity that exploits the river potential of this location. On the day of adjudication, it was being actively used by fishermen both boating and on land. The lay-by area was neat and clean and the hedgerow neatly trimmed. Opposite, the mounds of chippings looked somewhat unsightly and untidy. The floral enhancement at the boathouse was noted.

Litter Control:

Your litter rota, Monday cleanups and the assistance of the sports clubs in litter control has obviously been effective. The town was generally litter free on the day of adjudication. However, it is accepted that some road works were being carried out at Mass Lane, while the presence of a scattering of litter at the junction of Barrack Street and Glenside was noted. We wish you well in this endeavour.

Waste Minimisation:

You have obviously already commenced a campaign to inform the community of the benefits of this programme and you are to be congratulated on this initiative. To proceed further in marks under this heading, continued progress would be to encourage the various sectors of the community to audit the amount of waste produced by themselves and to devise ways of reducing it, in addition to segregation for recycling. As mentioned last year, the Race Against Waste booklet available from the Department of the Environment contains a number of good ideas on this. It is to be hoped that this programme will be developed in the coming years and that more initiatives from this booklet will be adopted in the future. The Bring Centre at the Jardin Chant-La-Mouteyre is in a central position and conveniently located, and was well presented on the day of adjudication.

Tidiness:

Once again the standard in this category was a little mixed, but we are aware that Waterford County Council has commenced work on the replacement of high quality street lighting. It is also noted that a number of footpaths and road surfaces will be replaced and renewed on completion of the proposed sewerage scheme. The phone box at Main St. should be realigned. At present a number of commercial premises are no longer trading and some of these would benefit from some attention. Announcement and twinning signs on the Mellery entrance were also in need of cleaning.

Residential Areas:

There is a good standard of presentation to individual residences throughout the town. The Mass Lane residences have a charming traditional scale and the Parochial House and the private residence beyond looked magnificent. The new housing at Danes Yard creates a nice sense of place and the adjacent deciduous trees form a mature backdrop. The courtyards here would be enhanced by further planting of trees and shrubs. The housing on both sides of the street of Upper Shanbally is well maintained and contains some very nicely presented private gardens. Gort an Scoilaire is an innovative housing scheme and it is good to see the inclusion of solar panels in this scheme. The well presented Flynn's Riverview Guesthouse on the Dungarvan side with its well maintained grounds is a highlight.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Cappoquin has a number of extremely attractive approach roads lined with stone walls, hedgerows and strands of mature trees. These are generally well presented, the highlight being the Lismore entrance road. The announcement sign for Cappoquin complimented by the planted boat is a nice association with the River Blackwater and has a welcoming appeal in this spectacular location. On the Dungarvan entrance, there are magnificent individual specimen trees and the road surfaces in this area are in good condition. Some reorganisation of signage here would be appropriate and, at the well presented GAA grounds, a good quality name sign and repainting of the gates would have a great visual benefit. Street name signs will be a welcome addition as identification of streets is presently confusing.

General Impression:

Cappoquin is a wonderful town with a rich heritage having great potential for the future. It is a charming town in a great location and the commitment of the TidyTowns committee will prove a great asset. We wish you well in your future plans.