

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Cheekpoint** Ref: **951**  
County: **Waterford** Mark: **208**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **15/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	14
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>208</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome to the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included a completed application form, a village map and informative photographs of a number of events held during the year and before photographs of the Green. Your committee is well organised in relation to meetings and promotion and your visits to the school to address fifth and sixth class is a worthwhile initiative. We note the problems that you have with developments at Cullens Hill and the location for the Bring Bank and it is hoped that these can be solved in the coming years. We would encourage the Cheekpoint committee to engage the help of other agencies, particularly in relation to the production of a three to five year village enhancement plan. It is to be hoped by widening the net in relation to applications for development assistance, that this approach will pay dividends in time.

### **The Built Environment:**

Like many Irish coastal fishing villages Cheekpoint gets its unique character from the pattern and shape of its own unique location. It was noted that within the village there were a number of both residential and commercial buildings enjoying a charming architectural character and scale. It would be a well worthwhile undertaking for the committee to have these buildings architecturally assessed with a view to their proper conservation and preservation. Existing features such as doorways, sash windows, and red brick chimneys should be particularly noted. The development of McAlpin's Cottage Bistro is a lovely example of a redevelopment that retains all the original features of the building such as sliding sash windows and a well proportioned extension that sets an example for future developments. At the seaward end McAlpin's Suir Inn is an attractive corner building with an appropriate black and white colour scheme and good quality signage and lettering. The external area is nicely paved with some seating and is enhanced by some colourful tubs and hanging baskets. Opposite, the row of stepped cottages have a great charm and their undisturbed porches are a particularly noteworthy feature. Local scale and local character such as this should be taken

into account when new buildings are designed. The small stone outhouse located to the side of Dobbyns House is a great illustration of this unique scale and is a simple and humble building which merits preservation.

### **Landscaping:**

The village has a myriad of incidental planted open spaces. The paved area opposite the post office was admired, as were a number of attractively planted areas opposite the terrace of houses on High Street. Dobbyns Field is a fine amenity and on the day of adjudication work was being carried out at the entrance. The photographs, submitted with your entry form, illustrate the importance of this amenity to village life. The Green is a highlight this year and the work carried out at the crucifix and the foreshore is impressive. The gravel beds surrounded by railway sleepers are freshly presented and the nearby well is a colourful feature. We look forward to your future scheme involving the decorative fishing boat on the foreshore. One of the highlights of the landscaped areas is the hill approach to the Strand Road between Daisybank House and The Moorings. The tree lined grass margins here, enclosed by stone walls, look magnificent with panoramic views of the waterfront. Although, the Moorings is now closed, signage here was particularly attractive and sets a high standard. It is to be hoped that this restaurant will re-open in the future. The house on the corner opposite, with its bright red wicket gate, looks spectacular.

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

It is good to see the committee co-operating with Waterford County Council in the maintenance of Dobbyns Field. We look forward to the results of the 'Build a Bird Box' competition and your proposed survey in conjunction with the Irish Wildlife Trust should prove interesting. The proposed information board at the quay will prove a great point of interest. Well done on this initiative.

### **Litter Control:**

The village was substantially litter free on the day of adjudication, except for a small scattering on the road between Dobbyns Field and the village. Your litter pickup days are obviously successful. We note your proposal for an annual monster clean up day.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

It is to be hoped that your discussions with the County Council on finding an alternative site for the Bring Bank will be successful. Notwithstanding the present problems, the present location is very good, although on the day of adjudication some litter was in evidence at the base of a number of the receptacles. No doubt this programme will be developed in the coming years and your proposal to provide a skip for the disposal of white goods and old car batteries is a good start.

### **Tidiness:**

The approaches to the village and the village core appear neat and tidy. It is unfortunate that the Moorings Restaurant has closed for the time being and it is hoped that this premises will be re-opened in due course. Some unsightly storage on the nearby pier was also in need of some attention to enhance the visual appearance. Further along a number of houses, at an attractively located terrace, were in need of regeneration.

### **Residential Areas:**

There is a wide variety of individually presented private residences throughout the village. Snowhill View looks well with some well presented individual private gardens. The stone announcement sign looks well, but the paved area could do with some weed control. Further along High Street, there are a number of well proportioned terraces of one and two storey houses facing Little Island. Many of these had colourful floral presentations. Mount Avenue and the Mount have a number of private residences and gardens presented to a high standard and the walkway to the foreshore was particularly admired.

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

The approach road from Waterford has panoramic views, but this entrance has an uneven appearance of maintenance. Generally, road surfaces were good, but at Mount Avenue the road was in need of resurfacing. We note your discussions with Waterford County Council concerning other areas in the village.

### **General Impression:**

Cheekpoint is a charming village with a magnificent woodland backdrop and the winding approach road creates a feeling of expectation which is more than fulfilled on arrival at the waterfront. Your photograph submitted as an illustration of the Crab Fishing Competition illustrates the vibrancy that is engendered on community days.

