

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Fenor** Ref: **236**
County: **Waterford** Mark: **257**
Category: **A** Date(s): **13/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	34
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	257

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included a completed report form, a well detailed map and the Fenor Bog NNR Conservation Action Plan (Draft Report). Your committee of six is hard working as evidenced by the programme of tasks outlined in your submission. It is noted that the net is widening in relation to applications for development assistance illustrated by your contact with Waterford County Council, FÁS, Fenor National School and the Copper Coast Geoparks. No doubt this approach, together with your communication efforts through local newspapers and Church notices, will pay dividends in time. It is also noted that the National School continues to hold Green Flag status.

The Built Environment:

Mother McHugh's Pub and the Bog 'n Bean Restaurant are the highlight of the village. These premises have a most attractive and appropriate colour scheme with good quality lettering. The frontage has three fascia boards and the small fascia board at the Tramore end has no lettering at present. Perhaps to enliven this with further lettering would be a good undertaking and the visual result would give the impression of a bustling complex of buildings. The external area to the front has a particularly attractive, partly enclosed paved area surrounded by a low stone wall. The seating area provided here was well used on the day of adjudication and considerably added to the tourism ambience of the village. Your work at the old post office was noted. Grass cutting was in progress at the Church and the grounds here surrounded by high deciduous mature trees looks magnificent. The new colouring to the boundary wall picks up on the ornate red coins and window and door reveal details of the Church. Well done on this effort!

Landscaping:

The village continues to have a high standard of landscaping. The new stone wall opposite the pub with the water pump centrepiece is a great enhancement to the attractive loose stone walls in the area. The earthen

top, planted with begonias, will hugely enhance this area when in full bloom. This theme was continued at the Church car park. The entrance under the mature chestnut trees gives this area an attractive maturity. New planting at the school was also noted.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The draft development plan for Fenor Bog is most interesting. This project is a wonderful amenity for the village and the exceptional board walk was being well used by visitors on the day of adjudication. The seating, stone style and information boards at the entrance, are great points of interest and the nearby seating sculptures, by sculptor John O'Connor, depicting the fox, otter, frog, dragonfly and others is of great interest and educational value. Further along the board walk, a number of the information displays are beginning to fade and are becoming difficult to read. Perhaps these could now be renewed and the sign stands repainted. The linear holly hedge opposite the GAA ground entrance is a lovely feature and enhances the entrance to the well. The access path to the well is in need of weed control.

Litter Control:

Your annual spring clean is an admirable undertaking and is obviously working well. The village itself was almost litter free, with small quantities of litter being noted at the stone stile entrance to Fenor Bog Walk and the information board on the Tramore Road.

Waste Minimisation:

The Bring Centre is well located in a prominent position opposite the Church, on the site of the old school. The facility was well presented, set on a paved platform surrounded by clear well maintained signage. Under this category, last year's adjudicator made a number of suggestions which your committee might embrace to make further progress.

Tidiness:

The village has a generally tidy appearance excepting a small number of problems, which could be easily tackled. A ply board sign without any information displayed was attached to a pole opposite the Church. This should be removed as it visually detracts from this very well presented area. On the Ballyscanlon Road, the name announcement sign was turned in the opposite direction on the day of adjudication. A stone rubble heap on the Tramore Road possibly remaining from the construction of the stone wall opposite should be removed as it gives an untidy appearance and the nearby information sign was also in need of attention.

Residential Areas:

There is a nice standard of presentation of individual private residences throughout the village core and along a number of the approach roads. We note that you are making progress on problem areas outlined in previous reports. Considering the slow down in residential developments nationwide, perhaps there will be a rethink on the scale of future developments for Fenor.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The attractive timber announcement sign on the Stradbally entrance is well presented, set in a marigold bed and is a nice welcome to the village, as is the similarly presented sign on the Tramore entrance. A number of other signs in the Tramore entrance have faded and are in need of cleaning. As previously stated stone walls are characteristic of this landscape and this lovely feature should be encouraged wherever possible, particularly where new developments occur. At the school car park, it was noted that a planning application has been made for a 2.4 metre boundary fence. Perhaps some consideration could be given to the creation of a hedge to enforce the existing hedgerows. A further hedgerow would have a considerably softening effect and enhance the already existing attractive stone walls and entrance gate.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Fenor situated close by Fenor Bog is one of an Irish village nestling comfortably in its setting, which has retained its charm, while embracing new developments in harmony with the existing