

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tramore** Ref: **228**
County: **Waterford** Mark: **249**
Category: **E** Date(s): **10/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	249

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included a recently compiled three year development plan outlining a structured work programme for your ongoing efforts. The photographic survey included with your report will provide the basis for a before and after record as improvements commence. This is a good effort and will provide a more focused approach to your developments. The Tramore committee is to be congratulated on engaging the help of other agencies. It is noted that the net is widening in relation to applications for development assistance and the three year report sponsored by Quish's SuperValu is an admirable start. It is good to see that the principal of Stella Maris School will liaise with local schools on your behalf. Well done on this initiative!

The Built Environment:

The adjudicator certainly had luck on his side this year because, on the day of adjudication, the sun was shining brightly and the town was thronged with visitors. The promenade area was bustling with activity and both the funfair and casual trading area looked bright and cheerful. Considering the amount of visitors the area was clean and the nearby, well designed toilets were clean and well presented, but the plant box and shrubbery here had a number of plants which had died and were in need of attention. Strand Road has improved over the past number of years and the paved area, with its traffic calming influence, lined with nicely presented plant boxes, hugely adds to the ambience of this centrepiece. The street furniture here is of a particularly high standard and was nicely presented. At the junction of Strand and Turkey Roads there is a magnificent complex of impressively presented buildings consisting of the Sands Hotel, the Oak Room Restaurant and the Shanty Bar and Restaurant. The colour scheme here is effective with black shop fronts and fascia boards with gold leaf lettering on cream coloured walls. This building sets a standard to be emulated throughout the commercial core of the town. It would be impossible to list all the commercial properties and a number were mentioned by last year's adjudicator. Suffice to say Rocketts, the Seahorse,

the Waterfront and Dynasty Restaurant were admired.

Landscaping:

As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, the town has a large number of landscaped, incidental open spaces. It is noted in your three year report that you now plan to continue these presentations in a structured fashion. The plant boxes located along Lower Branch Road are a nice feature but were in need of a freshening up and replanting and the planters attached to the public lighting were empty on the day of adjudication. Opposite there are a number of very attractive, free standing advertising signs which are nicely designed and have good quality lettering.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Tramore is well positioned to make advancements under this heading. The area has a myriad of wildlife habitats and perhaps, now that you have made a connection with the schools, there is an opportunity to encourage the school children to carry out local wildlife surveys. The results could then be illustrated on bi-lingual, wildlife boards providing further interesting information points in the town, such as that suggested in Doneraile Walk by last year's adjudicator.

Litter Control:

It is noted that your committee have highlighted areas in the town that are in need of attention and that Tramore has been included in the Irish Business Against Litter League. We also note that the problems of chewing gum and dog fouling are to be addressed. Although there was some evidence of litter in incidental areas throughout the town, the adjudicator was impressed with the overall standard of litter control, particularly in light of the large amount of visitors on the day.

Waste Minimisation:

The adjudicator notes your contact with the Council's Environmental Awareness Officer and that you plan some new initiatives under this heading. Quish's SuperValu located high on the hill between the two attractively presented churches, Christ Church and the Holy Cross, contains a Bring Centre adjacent to its car park. This is a well located facility with a particularly attractive hedge-lined entrance. The area was well maintained but a little litter was in evidence beside the receptacles. We wish you well in this initiative.

Tidiness:

Tramore Tennis Club looked splendid, enclosed on one side by an attractive high stone wall and consists of six hard courts located at different levels. The pavilion and hard landscaped patio adorned with tables and seating has panoramic seaward views. This is an excellent presentation. At the entrance, close by the beautifully presented Gallery B & B, the announcement sign for the tennis club has become discoloured. Perhaps this sign could be renovated and realigned. We note your continued contact with other organisations and Public Bodies to address problem areas with a view to achieving a higher overall standard in this category.

Residential Areas:

Tramore has a large number of individual housing schemes and it is good to see that the committee has decided to compile a list of these. This would be a useful undertaking with a view to making contact with the individual estates. Beechpark and Bayview, by Burns Riverstown Stores, maintain a very high standard of nicely manicured open spaces with some very attractive private gardens. Higher on the hill, the new estate, Newtown Park, has a nice design with particularly attractive landscaping, of which raised rockery beds are a feature. We look forward to its completion. Newtown Road has a magnificent array of individual private residences and the development of a new footpath was noted here. Newtown Hill has matured nicely and this tree lined estate achieves a high standard. Carrigeenlea, with its majestic views of the sea, has some very high quality low maintenance open spaces, particularly at the entrance. The open grassed areas were trim and well maintained. Marian Terrace again is the highlight of housing presentation and its colourful charm sets the standard for others to emulate.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the outskirts, as mentioned in previous reports, much new work has occurred along the bypass, and a number of new roundabouts have now been created. Some of these have yet to be landscaped but the new roundabout on the Dungarvan Road sets a high standard with its themed Copper Coast Geoparks presentation. Internally the town has great potential, particularly the walk from the atmospheric Vincent de Paul houses, adjacent to Glor na Mara Primary School, down to the Old Station house. This route passes by a nice complex of well maintained community buildings: the redbrick Stella Maris, the Fire Station, the Order of Malta Ambulance Corps, the Tramore Community Care Centre (Meals on Wheels), and Tramore Health

Centre. At the Health Centre the interesting flight of steps descends to Queen Street where Satina's Boutique and the adjoining DDB building, with their magnificent shop fronts and overhead sliding sash windows intact, looked well. The nearby period terrace with its well presented residences looks charming. The continuation of this walk terminates at the tourist information office opposite the old railway station. Perhaps the committee would give some consideration to developing a walking tourist trail in the town core. This walk could be animated by strategically located story boards in this historic area.

General Impression:

The Tramore committee now seem to be organising yourselves well in your efforts to restore the historic charm of this well known landmark seaside town. Your structured approach will undoubtedly produce immediate successful results in the coming years. We wish you well in this endeavour.