

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Waterford City** Ref: **1213**  
County: **Waterford** Mark: **253**  
Category: **H** Date(s): **03/07/2009**

|                                | Maximum<br>Mark | Mark<br>Awarded 2009 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach   | 50              | 31                   |
| The Built Environment          | 50              | 36                   |
| Landscaping                    | 50              | 34                   |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50              | 21                   |
| Litter Control                 | 50              | 31                   |
| Waste Minimisation             | 20              | 8                    |
| Tidiness                       | 30              | 17                   |
| Residential Areas              | 40              | 28                   |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 50              | 40                   |
| General Impression             | 10              | 7                    |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>400</b>      | <b>253</b>           |

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome to the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included a completed application form and a city map clearly marking the work programme carried out this year. The submission identified a large number of individual projects and each of these was visited by the adjudicator. The committee's work in partnership with Waterford City Council, Chamber of Commerce, Residents Associations and other agencies is outlined and you are to be congratulated on this integrated approach. We again encourage you to prepare a three to five year plan which in turn would help to give focus to your ongoing efforts.

### **The Built Environment:**

The part pedestrianisation of the old city has proved very successful. John Roberts Square is a lovely centrepiece and the hard landscaping here looks very well. On the day of adjudication, this area was bustling with activity and groups of people were seated at various locations throughout the square, providing a typically continental atmosphere. A range of redevelopment and impressive conservation work is being carried out at various locations in this area of the city. The Farmers' Market at Blackfriars is a nice development appropriate to this area as is the Gallery at Greyfriars. At Cathedral Square, the development at the Theatre Royal is an impressive undertaking and should prove a great asset to the cultural life of the city. The presentation of the nearby Corporation buildings looks very well and the ongoing conservation work to the old City Walls adds great interest. This careful conservation work will add greatly to the charm of the inner city when completed. Many contemporary developments were also noted and the Government Buildings at Summerhill look impressive. The Millennium Plaza was closed to the public due to the ongoing works on the flood alleviation scheme and the adjudicator looks forward to the completion of this work. This area makes a most attractive connection between the waterfront and the old city and is a great amenity here. The contemporary Bus Station is nicely presented as is the Railway Station on the opposite side of the bridge, notwithstanding the

vast amount of traffic at this juncture. Further afield, the contemporary development of the Health Clinic at the old Presentation Convent was noted.

### **Landscaping:**

The Park at Ballybricken Square was well presented. The bandstand centrepiece, surrounded by ornate flower beds and shrubberies, and set in a well manicured grass area makes an excellent presentation. Further along, the car park area would benefit from some tree planting to soften the visual effect of this vast area of cars. A number of nice buildings were admired here such as the Taproom, Alfie Hales, Paddy Kerbick, and the Flower Shop. The former Londis building, now closed, would be a great improvement if redeveloped. Elsewhere, there was a range of well landscaped, incidental open spaces at various locations throughout the city. The Browne Memorial at Bath St. was particularly admired. Hard landscaping here was to a very high standard. The People's Park is a great asset to the city and on the day of adjudication it was being prepared to host the forthcoming 'Spraoi'. Landscaping here is presented to a very high standard and the volume of visitors, both adult and children, present on the day of adjudication provided a unique holiday atmosphere. Evidence of the committee's hard work and your effective mobilisation of the wider community, is clearly to be seen in the huge number of hanging baskets, planted tubs, window boxes and flower beds at various locations throughout the city. A particular highlight is the colourful presentation of the roundabout at the modern Newtown Church.

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

John's River walk is a fine wildlife habitat and the development of the new pedestrian bridge by the Sports Centre was noted. The adjudicator felt there was a need for traffic calming here as the adjacent road was heavily trafficked. The achievement of the local schools in the Green Schools programme makes impressive reading. Perhaps the committee could further liaise with the schools to encourage local wildlife surveys. This information could be visually displayed by means of a display panel, to enhance local awareness. The results could then be illustrated on bi-lingual, wildlife boards providing further interesting information points along the river walk. Well done on the extensive tree and hedge planting programme which will be a great enhancement to the city in the future.

### **Litter Control:**

Last year's adjudicator commented on the intensive campaign on litter control initiated by the committee. This wide ranging programme covering such aspects as dog fouling, chewing gum staining and cigarette butt disposal should prove very successful in the long term. In the meantime perhaps the committee would let us know the success rate to date in next year's application. Your involvement with the schools must have a great educational value and similarly must pay dividends in time. On the day of adjudication, many of the above mentioned problems were to be seen at John Robert's Square and various surrounding streets. At Grattan Quay there were substantial quantities of litter on the roadside and in the Quay car parks there were small quantities of litter in evidence.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The committee is obviously making progress under this heading and it is noted that facilities for appropriate disposal are being expanded. The compost facility at Ballybeg is well located and the adjudicator was impressed with the presentation of this facility, but some litter was scattered along the roadside outside the site.

### **Tidiness:**

Again there is much evidence of the committee's success in mobilising efforts to maintain the high standard of care and attention to detail prevalent throughout the city centre. There is no doubt that the pace of building development has slowed down for the time being and the adjudicator noted that some important historical buildings remained to be regenerated on the Mall. It is to be hoped that progress will occur, in the short term rather than the long term, on this high profile site located between Bank Lane and Mall Lane. At the Square, an attractive finger post information sign had been re-orientated, so misleading the visitor at this important junction.

### **Residential Areas:**

Waterford City has a myriad of housing schemes in the residential areas and generally these are well presented. Many of these are new schemes developed in recent years. It is noted that the committee are already in communication with a number of these and that advice and other assistance is made available to residents. Perhaps the committee would now consider compiling a complete inventory of the housing stock. This would be a useful undertaking with a view to reinforcing your existing contact with the individual estates. The recent tree planting at Lismore Park looks well and on maturity the linear layout will provide a nice enclosure along the access road.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The old city has a lovely series of link streets in the old core and most of these are well presented. It is understood that construction at various points in this area is still ongoing and the adjudicator looks forward to the completion of these developments. Further afield, the completion of the flood alleviation scheme will re-open the Millennium Plaza at the waterfront. On the outer relief road, your programme regarding sponsorship for maintenance of individual roundabouts was noted. Generally, presentations here looked well but some weed control was needed, particularly to the nicely planted shrubbery at Ballicashin roundabout. At the Ballindud roundabout one tree was dead and somewhat detracted from the visual presentation.

**General Impression:**

Waterford is a historical city having a strong architectural and cultural heritage. Many of the new constructions within the city are sympathetic to their location and designed to a high standard. The committee is to be commended in helping to ensure that this development is carried out in a controlled and attractive manner. We wish you well with your future plans.