

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Blackwater** Ref: **126**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **251**
Category: **A** Date(s): **19/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	251

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included the completed application form, a village map and a clear outline of your work programme this year. The adjudicator commends the Blackwater committee's efforts to engage the help of other agencies, and perhaps the net could be widened to include the production of a three to five year village enhancement plan.

The Built Environment:

Blackwater is a charming village evidenced by its selection to represent Ireland in the Entente Florale competition in the past. It has a range of charming buildings located around the village core which present an inviting atmosphere for the visitor. Etchingam's Pub has a charming appeal when approached from the Church. The barrel vaulted roof of the Blackwater Farm Shop provides a nice rural atmosphere at this busy and attractive location. Sutton's Foodstore and Filling Station are neat and tidy and well presented. St. Brigid's School looks impressive flying the Green flag. The new extension has an attractive contemporary design and is very much in keeping with the character of the old village. The nicely maturing copper beech trees here were admired. It was noted that the Blackwater Lodge and adjacent shop have a 'For Sale' sign. It is to be hoped that new owners will be found for these premises as they command an important central location. The front railings at the shop are partly demolished and now look untidy. Opposite, a notice board near the Pomona Memorial needs refurbishment and the notices displayed have an untidy appearance. The Church is an impressive building located on high ground on the Enniscorthy approach road. It is well presented and its colour scheme looks attractive.

Landscaping:

As previously mentioned landscaping in the village is of a high quality and your involvement with the Entente Florale has had some long term benefits. Evidence of the committee's hard work and their 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 throughout the village, which hugely enhances the natural setting. Opposite the attractive Corrigan's Pub five flower tubs remain unplanted and are in need of attention. We look forward to the completion of the triangle and the new sculptural feature here. Well done on this great effort once again!

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator notes that you have updated your wildlife survey and this information has now gone for printing later in the summer. In view of the fact that the village has many natural amenities and wildlife areas, it would be a well worthwhile exercise for the committee to raise awareness of environmental issues amongst the local community by displaying this information on bi-lingual, wildlife boards providing further interesting information points in the village. There are numerous attractive grass margins and green spaces throughout the village where these boards could be located.

Litter Control:

The adjudicator notes your annual cleanup day, organised with the guides and the scouts, and the promotion of the Arts Competition. The village was litter free on the day of adjudication but a small quantity of litter was noticed on the roadside between the Church and the bridge.

Waste Minimisation:

It is good to see that the school has become actively involved in this programme and your facility is well presented. At the Community Hall and Church car park the clothing bank was well located and well presented. It is good to note from your application that you have commenced segregating litter on your cleanup days. Your engagement with local businesses is acknowledged. To proceed further in marks under this heading, a good start would be to encourage the various sectors of the community to audit the amount of waste produced and to devise ways of reducing it, in addition to segregation for recycling.

Tidiness:

Last year's report outlined in detail a number of problems remaining in relation to dereliction and the presentation of these properties. Perhaps the committee would consider carrying out an audit of owners with a view to making individual contact with them. On the issue of posting notices in shop windows, which is a problem throughout the country generally, a simple and more appropriate solution would be to remove the notices from the glass and display on an internal board within the window space.

Residential Areas:

The village has a large number of residential housing schemes developed over the last few years. A number of these are holiday complexes and on the Enniscorthy Road a nicely designed scheme with white houses and brightly coloured doors would benefit from a name sign. Opposite, at Riverside, landscaping is maturing nicely and this scheme looks very well. S and E Farrell's Caravan Park opposite the beach road is nicely screened by a hedgerow and Abhainn Dubh has a mature ambience and is well presented. Many individual private residences, and their well presented gardens throughout the village, were admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Blackwater has a nice variety of mature approach roads, in some cases lined with strands of wild flowers, and adorned with welcoming name signs for the village. Generally road surfaces are in reasonable condition throughout. The Riverwalk is a lovely feature and this area is of great interest.

General Impression:

The TidyTowns committee is certainly hard working and they are dealing with their remaining problems with an organised and structured approach. Blackwater is a charming village in a wonderful location and the commitment of the TidyTowns committee continues to be a great asset. We wish you well in your future plans.