

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bree** Ref: **29**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **253**
Category: **A** Date(s): **18/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	253

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included the completed application form, informative photographs, a well detailed map and a three year development plan. The adjudicator found this information of great assistance on the occasion of his visit. The Bree committee is to be congratulated in engaging the help of other agencies. It is noted that the net is widening in relation to applications for development assistance and this approach has already led to some impressive results. Your continued liaison with the local school is to be commended and the results are stunning.

The Built Environment:

Bree has a number of recently completed housing schemes and new developments have linked well with the old village. The village core has a nice range of planted open spaces and the new cobblelock footpaths link well from the commercial area to the outlying residential area. The Community Hall is well presented but somehow one feels its foreground area (concrete surface) could do with some landscape softening to compliment the nicely presented ICA garden opposite. The National School is a highlight and the organic garden here is a lovely feature. The Church again looks well and its architectural features and grounds are well presented. The commercial core consisting of the Post Office, the Spar Shop and The Huntsman combines to give a thriving and busy expression here. The colourful flower boxes and hanging baskets look extremely well in this location and the attached town house is a gem, retaining its fine architectural quality. The nearby farm would be enhanced by some screening to the Main Road.

Landscaping:

Evidence of the committee's hard work and your effective mobilisation of the wider community through your weekly newsletter and local newspaper notes, 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.

Certainly, it is this feature which has so successfully linked the various developments, set out in a linear form, into a compact more visibly urban form. The Dick Joynt Memorial garden with its attractive 'Mother and Child' sculpture is an appropriate centrepiece in this setting.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The committee has already made contact with the local school and it is to be hoped that they can now build on this contact with a view to carrying out a wildlife survey. The results of this survey could then be illustrated on further bi-lingual, wildlife boards providing further interesting information points in the village. The existing board at the Community Centre was particularly informative and the parish map provides great local interest.

Litter Control:

The committee's voluntary litter collection effort is to be commended and the close liaison with the local school is very heartening, as this is probably the best way of raising awareness in the community of the ubiquitous problem of litter. Litter control was generally good on the day of adjudication. However, small amounts of litter were in evidence scattered at the Community Centre grounds.

Waste Minimisation:

The adjudicator notes the increased size of the recycling bins and the addition of the clothing bin. The Bring Centre is well located in a high profile area and looked clean and tidy on the day of adjudication. Last year's adjudicator acknowledged the actions of the committee under this heading. To proceed further in marks, the committee could encourage the various sectors of the broader community to audit the amount of waste produced by themselves and to devise ways of reducing it, in addition to segregation for recycling.

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, both within the village core and on all the approach roads. Screening to farm buildings located in the core has already been mentioned and would further enhance the village.

Residential Areas:

Individual residences throughout the village are generally to a very high standard and well presented. Colour schemes are generally soft and subtle and look well in the village context. Your housing schemes are to a particularly high standard. Cluain Aiteann is a nicely designed scheme with a good proportion to the architectural features of doors and windows. Porches and annexes are a feature here, their design having a particularly nice scale. The layout was impressive and the grove of silver birch staked trees was admired. Carrigmacogue is nicely designed, laid out in village green form, although this scheme is not yet fully completed. The open space is nicely landscaped and the low maintenance gravel area surrounding the silver birch tree at the entrance looks impressive. Hillview creates a pleasant atmosphere and the seating and street furniture here looked impressive. Knocknagross housing estate is hugely enhanced by the magnificently developed park to the foreground and the many well presented private gardens here were admired. One house and garden here was in need of attention.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The village has a variety of approach roads and in general these look well. The main roads were well presented and the announcement signs look inviting. On the Clonroche approach road a new house under construction remains to be completed. The Bree upper entrance has a particular charm and the road presents a mature atmospheric ambience. There are strands of wild flowers in this area complimented by a large variety of deciduous hedging. Verge cutting was taking place in a number of areas on the day of adjudication.

General Impression:

Bree, which has a beautiful natural setting, continues to develop and expand in a controlled and attractive manner, and looks set to continue in this way in the years to come. Well done on your hard work!