

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bunclody** Ref: **137**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **232**
Category: **C** Date(s): **02/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	29
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	232

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the TidyTowns Programme for 2009 and thank you for the Completed Entry Form, map and expanded details of your intentions for the year. Your three year plan is rational and realistic. Refer to the TidyTowns handbook which will give you many pointers in this regard.

Your distribution of the TidyTowns folder to hairdressing salons, doctors waiting rooms and else where is a novel attempt to "spread the word".

Market Square is very well laid out and the shops and building in this area are maintained and presented in a very fine manner.

The road workings involved in the final stages of the new sewerage installation were ongoing on the day of adjudication and due allowance was made for these necessary improvements.

The Built Environment:

The Millrace Hotel is a splendid structure at one with its surroundings. The Credit Union House is most imposing as is the new library. The fire station on its new site in Ryland Road is impressive. Loftus Pharmacy is a fine example of a traditional shop front displayed in a fitting manner. Redmond's bar and lounge was admired with plenty of window boxes and its display of flags. O Reilly's of Bunclody was neat and orderly. A wide number of well presented shop fronts were noted and admired. Irish street featured a number of small scale but attractive houses and shops in addition to the Health Centre.

The two churches were each very well displayed, road work restrictions prevented access to Church Road on

the day of adjudication. The primary school on the Carlow Road looked well as did the school on Hospital Hill. The small Garda Station too, caught the eye. The public toilet near the bridge is now somewhat below par for a town of this size and importance.

Your pro-active engagement with the various vacant and derelict buildings is commendable and you are wished well in these endeavours. The secondary school and cemetery on the Gorey Road looked well.

Landscaping:

The topography of the Mall area means that the trees there have to be kept under review and replaced as and when required. The two semi-mature trees planted on the Market Green and their survival rate is very encouraging in this regard. The special attractiveness of the Mall is certainly unusual and must be carefully protected. The Slaney River is a major resource but is not fully utilised as yet. The proposed People's Park is a bold and imaginative step to put this to rights and is wished well. Hanging baskets and window boxes are welcomed on a growing number of shops and commercial premises.

The novel design of the golf course Club House is full of interest while the entrance area is quite imposing.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your plans for bat and bird boxes are wished well. The surrounding areas offer many opportunities for nature trails and your long term plans in this regard are looked forward to with great interest. The river and its surrounds offer many opportunities. Do not over look the smaller incidental areas either. Many such offer the option of small scale nature reserves. The schools too can often set aside an area for use as a bird sanctuary where the students can be introduced to the hobby – this can lead to a life long enriching activity and as such is wholly appropriate within the school environment.

Litter Control:

The introduction of the Sunday morning litter patrol is welcomed and we will be interested in how well it has helped matters over the summer. The Monday evening litter pick needs to be well advised to the community in general and all invited to take part. These exercises are a fruitful source of additional volunteers. Clearly the FAS workers are of value to the committee as well.

Litter bins were noted in many locations. They were of a suitable design and seemed to be appropriately located. One or two would benefit from more frequent washing due to traffic soiling. With minor exceptions, in general litter was a welcome absentee on the day of adjudication.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling units in the foreground of the supermarket were suitable positioned and well respected. The two sites selected – the second on the Ryland Road service station was also convenient in that users can get close with their cars. Welcome also to the clothing units which help to raise funding for worthy causes as well as bringing suitable items back into use. The growing use made of large scale metal recycling facilities such as at the Football grounds is equally to be welcomed. The arrangements for disposal of green waste are also worthwhile. However much of this might be suitable for home composters. Remember this section of the competition is as much about encouraging a change of mind-set in respect of waste minimisation as it is about dealing with material recycling as such.

Literature is available from Wexford County Council and elsewhere to help individual households and the community at large to reduce usage of scarce and expensive energy, by dealing with green waste at home for example, so that the final amount of energy used to carry material to landfill or elsewhere is minimised.

Tidiness:

Well done on the absence of fly posting. It is the unfortunate nature and duty of reports such as this one to comment on the few items that jar despite the overall good impression made by Bunclody.

There was a disappointing amount of spoil on the bridge which seemed to be very dusty but this is put down to the work in progress within the town at the moment. A number of the schools need to wire-brush the rusty iron work at their entrances and repaint them. Near the school on the Gorey Road some of the kerb stones have become dislodged and need attention.

Residential Areas:

The expansion of the housing stock of Bunclody over the last number of years has, like elsewhere, been of sizeable dimensions. The traditional housing stock along Irish Street and the Mall continue to be well presented, with the newer estates making their contribution as well. Residents association and groups play a major part in maintaining these in good order. Carrickduff certainly benefits from their activities as the estate maintained its high standards again this year. The standard of presentation of individual houses in Carrickbawn and nearby Ard Colm varies but both have fine floral displays at their respective entrances. The position with Old Forest and Castlerock is difficult and we can but hope for an improvement in the economy over the the near future. Termonbarry and Ryland Wood are both getting established and an amount of good work has been done in both.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Your effort to secure bi-lingual street signs is laudable and welcomed. Very fine street signs are going up in a number of towns. Your suggested choice of green as a back ground colour in terms of readability is not without its critics. Many agree that a dark text against a light – ideally white - background is best in this context.

Most roads into Bunclody are steep hills that afford fine views over the town and give a delightful overall impression of this most interesting settlement. On the Gorey Road one of the speed limit signs have been turned around, both need to be washed.

More could be made of this important crossing place centred on the Bridge itself in terms of the potential views from it. While noting the memorial stone in respect of 1798 an additional explanatory notice in appropriate format here would be welcomed.

General Impression:

Bunclody has the advantage of being surrounded by tree dressed hills on all sides. The charming Mall area is a delight and despite the covering of dust continues to excite with the richness of the topography and especially the mid road water course. Your entry form makes clear the resolve of your committee to identify, analyse and put to rights the factors that currently may hinder Bunclody from reaching ever higher in the Tidy Towns listings. To everyone and each organisation associated with this year's entry our best thanks and applause. Please keep up the good work and you are wished well in next year's competition.