

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonroche** Ref: **124**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **273**
Category: **B** Date(s): **18/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	42
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	273

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included the completed application form, three year development plan and map and a number of photographs. Your plan gives a clear indication of the projects you intend to carry out in the coming years and was of great assistance to the adjudicator on the occasion of his visit. It is noted that your committee now consists of twenty members and that you have monthly meetings in addition to special event meetings. Your communication with the broader community through newsletters, reminders and general discussion is noted. The 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 no doubt this approach will pay further dividends in time.

The Built Environment:

The traditional village was laid out in a linear fashion and the commercial business takes place along one street. In general, business premises are well presented and a number were admired: Green's Drapery and Footwear with its attractive lettering, Larkin's Shop, Jackie's and the attractive small scale Post Office. The Gala Shop and Filling Station is neatly presented but there is a multiplicity of sandwich board signs here and a little re-organisation would give a more ordered appearance. A planning notice was observed on the Old Clonroche Arms. This was a lovely building containing all the characteristics of rural Irish architecture. It is to be hoped that new developments here will respect its character, particularly in relation to scale and materials. Important elements would be windows, doors, chimney details, and roof pitch. The adjoining building, recently developed, has not fully dealt with this issue. The Community Hall is well presented with a nice colour scheme and the paved footpaths nearby look well.

Landscaping:

Hedge planting is fast becoming a feature of the village and it was good to see the hedge along the Glanbia

chain link fence. This hedge, together with the green beech hedge on the opposite side of the road, will have a softening effect in time and will provide a nice enclosure to this entrance road. The newly planted Whitethorn hedge on Spout Road will have a similar effect and a number of loose stone faced banks, newly built here at a private residence, look magnificent. Planting along the Enniscorthy Road is adding nicely to an area which has already matured very well and the lime kiln presentation opposite the school was a highlight. The Millennium Park creates a lovely tranquil space in the village centre. The beech hedges surrounding the park have matured well and form a lovely enclosure. All the furniture provided at the Park was bright and well presented and the grove of silver birch trees is a nice feature. Well done on this effort!

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

John's Lane presents a great surprise and the entry area is interesting with the well presented wildlife board. This adjudicator certainly enjoyed the walk down to the views of the Blackstairs Mountains. It was nice to see the acknowledgement of vernacular architecture at the ruin of the old mud cottage and the newly constructed loose stone retaining walls were a nice feature. The area abounds with wildlife and is a good foundation on which to develop your wildlife agenda. In order to increase marks under this heading, perhaps the committee could organise a competition, sponsored by some local organisation, to encourage local clubs or the School to carry out a survey of local wildlife. The results could then be illustrated 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. The pond at Diers Farmyard is a hidden gem. Perhaps the committee would let us know if there are any future plans for this amenity.

Litter Control:

The village was generally litter free save for a small amount scattered at the roadside at Spout Road and along the gable of Greene's supermarket. At the school two young girls, wearing fluorescent jackets, were using litter tongs to clear the area outside the school. Your message is obviously having a good effect.

Waste Minimisation:

The Bring Centre was well presented on the day of adjudication. However, there was a small amount of broken glass around the receptacles. It is to be hoped that this programme will be developed in the coming years and that more initiatives from the Race Against Waste website will be adopted in the future

Tidiness:

The committee is continuing to make progress under this heading. It is to be hoped that you will be able to make progress with a number of derelict houses that are in need of redevelopment in the near future. We wish you well with this endeavour.

Residential Areas:

The village has a myriad of private residences located throughout the area. Most of these are presented to a high standard with some well presented and colourful private gardens. Two houses at An Tobair had magnificent gardens which enhanced the nicely landscaped area at this village focal point. Slí an Uisce is a nicely laid out scheme providing a good sense of place. The grassed open spaces are well presented and the trees are beginning to mature. Some weeds along the kerb lines should be removed and unfortunately there was graffiti on the lovely name signs at the entrance. 'Woodlands' is a very well located scheme which integrates well with the village proper. Other villages could learn from this integration and its location close to the village core strengthens the urban connection. The layout incorporates the nicely triangular grassed area adorned with colourful planted flower tubs and the turning circle has a nicely hard landscaped area adjacent. The children's slide is in a safe and secure area on the central green space. Canon Murphy's Estate is a beautifully presented scheme and sets an example for others to emulate. The grassed areas were trimmed and well presented and there was an array of colourfully planted flower tubs, window boxes and hanging baskets. Individual private gardens here were admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to Clonroche are generally presented to a high standard. The Enniscorthy Road features some fine mature trees, stone walls and hedgerows. At O'Dubhail Developments, a hedgerow along the front boundary would provide screening. Further along the announcement sign looks well and was nicely presented.

St Clements Church and grounds look magnificent on the Poulpeasty approach road and the Carlfort Nursing Home and private residences opposite also set a high standard.

General Impression:

The work of your hardworking committee is certainly very apparent to any visitor to the village. We wish you

well in the years ahead.