

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Oylegate** Ref: **252**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **211**
Category: **B** Date(s): **19/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	1
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	211

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included the completed application form and a map. We note from your submission that your committee has an additional member since last year's submission and we acknowledge your comments regarding a general lack of interest in the community. Perhaps you should consider contacting the environmental section of Wexford County Council to seek help with promoting the competition in your area. This initiative seems to have worked well in other communities. It was noted that you already have a FAS worker working with your community. This is a good start. Perhaps you could then consider the production of a three to five work programme that would give a more structured focus to your efforts.

The Built Environment:

The village has a number of commercial buildings and most of these are well presented. Both pubs are located close to the village core. At Cavanagh's Slaney Inn the grounds look very well. The car park has a good gravel surface and looks well, while beyond this the grassed area was being mown on the day of adjudication. The building itself commands a corner position and has a nice colour scheme. Mernagh's Pub has an attractive name sign and looks inviting with the well presented seating and tables at the forecourt. The adjoining P.J.'s Diner also looks well but could be improved by re-organisation of some cluttered signage. The Gala building is well presented and the adjacent planting of brightly coloured flower tubs was noted. The old village hall is in need of repainting and beyond, the National School is neat and tidy. Repainting of the front boundary wall would be an improvement here. The Church is a feature building and the peaceful and tranquil grounds are a welcome contrast to the busy streets outside. We note your comments regarding the refurbishment of other buildings in the village.

Landscaping:

Good quality landscaping carried out along the N11 is one of the main features of the village. This area is now maturing nicely and offers positive opportunities for the committee for further enhancement. Traffic calming and bicycle lanes were noted. Last year's adjudicator noted a number of seats needing upgrading.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

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 examine this aspect of your development. As stated on your report, the National School have already commenced a wildlife programme and perhaps you could engage with them to further develop this initiative. In order to increase marks under this heading, perhaps the committee could organise a competition sponsored by a local organisation or some other organisation to encourage local clubs, associations or the school children to carry out a survey of local wildlife.

Litter Control:

Litter control was reasonably good on the day of adjudication but there was a small scattering of litter, together with some plastic bottles, along the Ballymurn Road entrance.

Waste Minimisation:

We note that you have no programme under this heading this year. It would be a well worthwhile exercise for your committee to consult the Race Against Waste website with a view to increasing your marks in this category.

Tidiness:

The village appeared reasonably tidy on the day of adjudication. Previous reports referred to some areas requiring attention and some of these remain. It is accepted that a number of sites are undergoing construction and it is to be hoped that these will bring about visual improvement on completion.

Residential Areas:

The village has a number of nice, well maintained housing schemes. St. David's Terrace has a nice layout enclosing a cul-de-sac green. There were a number of nicely planted flower tubs here and a fine example of topiary. Powerscourt, located in the village centre, is maturing nicely and this estate was neat and tidy and well maintained. Cún an Tobair is a fine example of newly developed energy-efficient houses. This integrated scheme is well designed with appropriate materials and scale and has an attractive colour scheme. The front railings look well and their transparency leaves sunlight through to the individual gardens. Many of the high standard garden presentations were admired here. Well done on this effort! One circular planted bed at an internal roundabout needs weed control. We look forward to the completion of the overall development together with its proposed open space.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Both entrances on the N11 were again well presented and announcement signs were clear and visible. The Ballynaslaney Road has some attractive hedgerows and the nicely landscaped triangle at the St. David's Well sign looks well. The sign itself was in need of some refurbishment.

General Impression:

Oylegate deals with a large volume of through traffic and in this regard the traffic calming measures have reached a level of success. Perhaps the committee should consider a fact finding mission to other local villages to see how they engage with other environmental agencies involved in helping communities. This village has the potential to achieve much more in the competition. We wish you well in the years ahead.