

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Delgany** Ref: **249**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **248**
Category: **C** Date(s): **24/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	248

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed application and associated leaflets, maps, photos and other information. The maps would be more useful if you could mark on the obvious buildings such as schools and churches. The committee of 8 meets four times a year plus regularly for clean-ups in summer. There are good relationships with the schools, and the green-schools programme is working well. There is community involvement and some support from the county council. Please consider a development plan for Delgany for a 3, 4 or 5 year period. You state there was a plan done for the heritage and built environment. It would be useful to submit some of this plan with next years application. There is also mention of a 5 year plan in reference to overhead wires. Submitting evidence of this planning could gain you marks in this section.

The Built Environment:

The National School looks superb. The roads in front are well marked for traffic management. The church of Ireland is very neat and clean. The Delgany Inn is missing a letter from its sign and could do with a fresh coat of paint in the near future. There are some gorgeous cottages with quirky names and lovely tubs of floral displays. There are many fine houses in Delgany including the Old Rectory. Shopfronts all good, eg. Gourmet Food shop, Wicklow Arms, Horse and Hound. The Carmelite monastery looked superb.

Landscaping:

There are good shrubs and planters outside the school. Who's responsibility is it to mow grass across from the Delgany Wood estate? It is quite overgrown and impinges on road crossing here. If it is being left wild for habitat enhancement, it would be good practice to mow back about a foot so that it has a tidy look while still providing wildlife benefit. St Laurence's NS also has lovely shrubs and trees in the grounds.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river walk is nice and provides an interesting experience in crossing the little bridges being surrounded and covered overhead by trees. There's a wealth of heritage and history in Delgany and it is being promoted well by signs and interpretive panels. The old burial ground has been lovingly restored into an attraction, along with wildlife support such as bird boxes which seem to be working well. It would be good to extend the river walk so its more along the river, and links with heritage trails, and tentative plans for this are noted.

Litter Control:

Litter control is good overall. There were a few scraps scattered past the pump on way to the N11 and some dog fouling was noticed here and there on the pavement in the village. As there was a campaign on this issue, it is being addressed. Maybe there could be free pooper scoopers offered to the community, and awareness raising signage, run in conjunction with a school project to spread the word to 'bag it and bin it'. The County Council environmental officers could help with this. A focus on litter would be timely in April to tie in with the National Spring Clean campaign. An Taisce can advise on this. There was also some litter down the river walk so this is also an area that provides a challenge. Litter problems are not solved overnight, and is down to people's personal behaviour so a campaign tackling it with both education, enforcement and clean-ups will show success over time. Engage with the Council's litter wardens to see about specific issues in Delgany.

Waste Minimisation:

It was good to see the Green Flags flying proudly at Delgany NS and St. Laurences. Well done to all involved and keep up the good work. There are many opportunities to gain marks here. What are people doing to minimise waste in the area? Are householders composting? Are businesses reducing, reusing and recycling packaging? Perhaps a survey to find out current practices could be done in conjunction with the schools. Any promotional work carried out to encourage sustainable lifestyles will gain marks here. Its not just about segregating materials for recycling, its about preventing waste in the first place. Speak to the Council's environmental officers and An Taisce about linking in to their programmes.

Tidiness:

Apart from the odd bit of graffiti, such as the box outside school, and a few unused sign poles or ones in poor condition, the village is quite tidy. Tackling weeds at kerbs in more areas would enhance the overall look.

Residential Areas:

There are quite a few small housing estates, some new and some very mature and beautiful. Most are looking well. Some have no name plates as yet so difficult to identify them. Bellevue lawn was good, as was Convent Court and one particular area up the hill with fantastic mature native trees. The village is fortunate to be placed with so many wonderful woodlands.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roads, streets and back areas are generally good here. There are a few lovely bridges with interesting history such as the footbridge which was a ford until the 1990's. The wall along by Delgany Golf Club is breaking up in places but efforts are noted to preserve this important feature. It is unfortunate that so many trees were felled but its understood it was for safety reasons.

General Impression:

Delgany is a unique spot with amazing natural surroundings. There is a sense of history and heritage here, a certain timelessness. Further promotion of the assets of heritage and nature, with enhancement of areas for people to stop and stay a while would be good. The litter problems will be overcome by joining forces and seeking support from other agencies. It seems the majority of the driving force comes from one or two people, and although progress has been made, it slow. It may be timely for a shared community vision to be put

together, with a focus on certain sections of the competition where leaps forward could be taken. Well done on work to date and best of luck.