

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Stratford-On-Slaney** Ref: **849**  
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **282**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **17/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	14
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	38
General Impression	10	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>282</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for the completed application form, photos and maps of your village. With 8 members on the committee and strong links with the school and the rest of the community, there is a good sense of integration and style here. It is good you think that the competition galvanises villagers to action in improving the area. There is support from Wicklow County Council. Items for distribution are often circulated through local press and notes can also be put through letter boxes. The village is entered as a category B, for population between 201 and 1,000 people, is this correct? It appears to be smaller perhaps, and would look more like a category A as it is a small village. There seems to be a well organised approach to the Tidy Towns as regards what needs to be done. This vision and planning should be put in the format of a 3, 4 or 5 year plan for next year. As far as possible, projects should be given timescales and indicative costs included, as well as the lead person for each. Well done and good luck in the competition 2009!

### **The Built Environment:**

Walking around Slaney, one sees not many buildings but the ones there are all immaculate. The school and old coach house look stunning after their fresh coats of paint. Private houses are kept very well indeed. The old church is simple and small and obviously very well cared for. Seen from the centre of the village down a road adds to its appeal. The Stratford Arms is smart in appearance. The pre-school is very cheerful and bright. The new church with bell tower looks great.

### **Landscaping:**

Overall the landscaping is pretty and stylish. The central green areas with flowers and ornate pumps are beautifully presented. The planting and stonework at central crossroads looks elegant. Everything is so well trimmed, there must be immense effort gone into this. The silver milk churns are a charming reminder of

times gone past. Lamposts were noted. The area around the pre-school has been landscaped to a good standard, with inclusion on wild area for habitat enhancement.

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The planned walks are a very good idea and once in place, will add to marks in this section. The panel with information on wildlife is beautiful with the painted images of some of our native fauna. Is another panel to be erected with details of the walks? It was mentioned previously that there was a habitat survey done? Please submit information on this with next years application.

#### **Litter Control:**

The bring centre is closely screened with trees. Do people have space to use the banks? It looks well but its not clear if it is still functional – its almost too well hidden! The village is spotless. This is the result of hard work in daily litter picks, and of on-going education and awareness campaigns so well done.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Great to see the Green Flag flying at the school, well done. There are strong links here with community and school, including compost collected at school being added to community composting scheme, and shared responsibility for upkeep of veggie plots. Perhaps it is appropriate for the village to look at other areas of sustainability such as in energy efficiency and there are schemes such as Transition Town, Green Communities that could be explored.

#### **Tidiness:**

The building site has been effectively screened. All village signs are clean and clear. The railings on bridge off N81 could do with a clean, as pointed out in your own application. Other yards have also been well screened off to good effect. Farm gates are well painted – an interesting green item on a pillar was noticed and wondered what it was, might be interesting to have restored.

#### **Residential Areas:**

All residential areas looked well. Private houses and gardens are all well cared for and there is a sense of pride in the village.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The road markings were good in general, however the surfaces weren't great on the west side of village. Approaches were very well presented. The corner on road from Grange Con has been much improved.

#### **General Impression:**

Stratford on Slaney is a pretty village with a sense of pride. There is strong community presence, and it appears a friendly, welcoming place to live. They have embraced the past while looking forward. Well done on work to date and best of luck!