

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrigaholt** Ref: **732**
County: **Clare** Mark: **235**
Category: **A** Date(s): **28/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	235

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition and thank you for submitting the completed entry form together with a copy of the proposal and quotations in relation to the landscaping project on the Kilkee approach. Unfortunately we did not receive any map with the application – documents submitted in one year do not reach the adjudicator in the following year so it would be worthwhile submitting a current map, indicating new tidy towns projects, with each year's entry.

Carrigaholt Tidy Towns Committee, consisting of 5 members, has obviously been busy attending monthly meetings and working on projects during the year and it is good to note that Carrigaholt Development Association has also been supporting your endeavours. Participation of the local school and its pupils in Tidy Towns projects is very important and commendable.

We appreciate that it can be difficult for a small village to recruit an adequate number of volunteers, however, the example and enthusiasm of existing members can often be successful in encouraging others to participate in projects. One possibility could be the use of public meetings to include a workshop or lecture on a tidy towns related topic which would be of interest to individuals attending and beneficial to the town as well. The area of Waste Minimisation offers many possibilities for that type of public session.

We note that you did not submit a 3 Year Plan, as recommended in last year's report. In order to make significant progress within the Tidy Towns Competition, a plan based over 3 to 5 years would be advisable and we strongly recommend that you consider this option. It wouldn't need to be prepared by a professional, it can be prepared by your own committee but views should be sought from the local community.

We hope that everyone in Carrigaholt, along with visitors to your lovely town, enjoyed the recent Oyster & Trad Fest and are looking forward to the forthcoming Family Festival in August. Festivals and the Tidy Towns

Competition, offer great opportunities for people to work together and foster a good community spirit so we hope that your festivals will continue to play a successful role in Carrigaholt's culture for many years to come.

The Built Environment:

West Clare has a lovely wild natural beauty and Carrigaholt is a well structured village nestling comfortably within its rugged coastline. The excellent facilities available to residents and visitors include the beach - where we watched several people para-surfing; the pier area and the park. The Castle overlooking the pier was imposing.

Carrigaholt has a good mix of mature properties which have been augmented by some more recently built individual homes, a small development of holiday homes and the caravan park.

Although the village has a small population it possesses some fine services including the National School, with its breathtaking views of the sea, lovely dolphin and ABC murals and very well presented grounds. The nearby Church was impressive on its elevated site lined with mature trees. Other buildings which looked well during our visit included the Post Office with picnic tables outside, the Dolphinwatch Booking Office and Garda Station. The Square is a lovely focal point in the village.

Thirsty visitors had some attractive options including The Anchor (Jack Lynch), Keane's, Morrissey's Village Pub, Carmody's and the Long Dock, several provided picnic benches and colourful floral displays. We also admired Claire Crafts, the Village Take Away, the Loop Head Studio and Fennell's Café and Bar (this was a very well presented building although the business did not seem to be operating during our visit).

Landscaping:

There were some fine displays of floral colour throughout Carrigaholt, including the pretty hanging baskets at the bridge on the Kilkee approach. The summer bedding displays at the Square and Park were attractive, the car park looked well with the nice stone flowerbeds and picnic facilities. The Village Pump was a lovely reminder of bygone days.

Business premises and homes in all locations had some fine hanging baskets and window boxes. The large red tractor tyre was an interesting home for a colourful display of bedding plants.

It would be good if some shrubs could be used to add colour to the development of holiday homes

Congratulations to everyone involved in the planting and maintenance of the lovely displays in public areas, businesses and the landscaped gardens of the private homes in Carrigaholt. The overall impression was very appealing.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We noted your intention to ensure that the whole village remains appealing and that grassed areas are maintained. That work is certainly commendable but in order to make progress under this category, you should select projects with a specific benefit to the wildlife of Carrigaholt.

Last year's report indicated that you had contacted the Wildlife Ranger, however, there was no progress report or update in your entry this year. We hope that you were able to obtain helpful ideas and we suggest that you try to involve the local schoolchildren in any projects which are undertaken.

It was good to see the information boards which have already been produced on display in the village and attracting holidaymakers' interest during our visit.

Litter Control:

Your organised clean ups in conjunction with the local schools seem to be working quite well. During our visit the village was relatively clear of litter but a few pieces were spotted near the picnic tables outside the Post Office and at the Recycling Bank.

This category is not only marked on the absence of litter during the inspection but it also includes the planning process for litter control. Additional marks can be achieved by submitting a litter control plan as part of the entry submission.

Waste Minimisation:

The Race Against Waste is growing in importance and everyone has a vital role to play in this area. Well done on your initiative to involve local school pupils in the Spring Cleanup and monthly litter picks, this is very good training for the younger community members.

It is good that Carrigaholt has recycling facilities but recycling is only one aspect of waste minimisation. It is also vital that waste is reduced as much as possible. There are several projects which you might consider undertaking:

- Obtain copies of the Race against Waste booklet, which should be available from the Tidy Towns Unit
- Undertake a Waste Audit
- Individual households could be encouraged to compost grass cuttings and leaves.
- Leaflets with advice on waste minimisation could be circulated to homes, shops and businesses in the town
- A waste minimisation workshop could be organised, with the involvement of the County Council, and this could take place as part of a public Tidy Towns Meeting

Tidiness:

General tidiness of the village had improved considerably and while there were still some opportunities for further enhancement, the overall impression was quite good. The practice of painting derelict cottages is a very good temporary measure and the cottage near the bridge was a very good example.

It was a pity that barrels were stacked outside the front of some pubs in the village – it would be good if alternative storage arrangements could be made.

Residential Areas:

Carrigaholt has a wonderful old world appeal and visitors to the area are transported back to a time when people could relax and leave the frantic pace of life behind. During our visit we admired some very well maintained homes including several attractive stone cottages, a very well painted white house with black window trims on the road near Carmody's, Blake's well painted white property and the attractive stone built house next door.

Some individual houses on the edge of the village were well maintained with good landscaped gardens. As mentioned previously, we suggest that a shrubbery be installed at the development of holiday homes to enhance the appeal. The Caravan Park was neatly presented.

Your actions to encourage households to display window boxes and hanging baskets have definitely been successful as the displays were very impressive, well done. It was obvious from our visit that the residents of Carrigaholt are proud of their homes and have been working very hard to protect and enhance them, congratulations to all.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to the village were generally neat and tidy but there were a few surface problems including some potholes on the road to the pier and Castle.

We share your aim to enhance the Kilkee approach by suitable landscaping, this could make a major impact on the visual presentation as you approach the village and we hope that you are successful in obtaining the necessary funding for the project.

General Impression:

We thoroughly enjoyed our stroll through your enchanting village and hope that you are able to overcome the issues of concern which you have identified. The key aim should be to ensure that you communicate as closely as possible with the wider community and thereby encourage further participation in the projects you wish to undertake.

We wish everyone in Carrigaholt continued progress under Tidy Towns for many years to come and we hope to see the further fruits of your labour on a future visit.

