

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ennistymon** Ref: **69**
County: **Clare** Mark: **240**
Category: **C** Date(s): **08/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	24
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	240

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Ennistymon to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the completed entry form and map. Your Committee of five and volunteers appears to have a mixed response from Ennistymon in terms of Tidy Towns. However it was encouraging to read that you have good support from FAS and that you are working with Clare County Council also. The Aims & Objectives sheet made for interesting reading and not all Committees provide a written statement of intent such as Ennistymon does. Your Tidy Towns Plan was studied and this is a basic but useful document. Many Committees find that a three year focus is best. You are in liaison with seventeen groups but are each of them doing something positive for Tidy Towns in Ennistymon each year. If not then they should be given a suggested task.

The Built Environment:

The adjudicator understands the problem of the wall at Blake's Corner and hopefully this can be resolved now that the County Council has purchased the two houses here. You are working on bilingual signage and hopefully this will be provided without delay. There appeared to be a great absence of street signage in Ennistymon. Your entry indicated that 'most buildings now restored'. However the adjudicator noted quite a number of closed or derelict buildings. In respect of derelict buildings you should discuss these with the County Council who has powers under The Derelict Sites Act. Work was still to be completed outside the Clare County Council Offices. On Circular Road the Fire Station was quite well presented and the stone Courthouse Studios and Gallery premises caught the eye. The Falls Hotel and grounds is attractively presented and the view over the river here is wonderful. The Crosbie corner building really appealed to this adjudicator. A great colour choice has been made here and the attention to detailing is good. This is complimented by good landscaping. The very unusual frontage of the McNamara pub caught the adjudicator's attention. The strong colour works well on the Barry's Menswear premises while further up the street the frontage of An Teach Bia has attractive curved top windows. The Square is dull and featureless and

has great potential for the use of both hard and soft landscaping. It could be a really great colourful focal point for Ennistymon. Some of the buildings around the Square are attractively presented.

Landscaping:

The new tree planting at the Lahinch Road picnic area was examined. Earlier in the year the 1,000 Daffodils on this approach road must have been marvelous. The landscaped area at The Bryan Merriman Sculpture looked quite colourful. The Crosbie premises makes great use of hanging baskets as do other premises in the town.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We look forward to seeing the planned Nature Trails in the future and this is an excellent project. Do make sure that appropriate interpretation is provided. The Wildlife and Environmental talks were a good initiative and could be repeated each winter. The Vocational School study on the river sounds interesting and you might let us have a summary for next year. The new Otter sculpture is impressive and perhaps you will have future plans for other sculptural pieces. The continuation of the river walk project has been noted.

Litter Control:

It is great that you have a fulltime FAS person working on litter alone. On the day of the visit, litter control was quite good. Just a little litter was noted on the approach to the Falls Hotel. Along the Main Street a few patches of littering were noted.

Waste Minimisation:

Your entry mentioned local recycling and this is encouraging. Have you looked at Ennistymon to see what possibilities there are for waste reduction? Perhaps you would talk to businesses about this?

Tidiness:

Derelict and closed buildings are the biggest problem under this category in Ennistymon and this has been discussed above. At the Library some graffiti was noted on the wall Mural. The old rusty Railway Bridge that is so obvious would be improved if painted.

Residential Areas:

Infill housing on the New Road was admired. A number of housing estates were visited. In some weed growth at kerbing and road boundary walls that needed to be painted were the main problems. The Ardnaculla estate is an open one and an uncut roadside bank just above the estate looked untidy.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The picnic area on the Lahinch road was admired as was the Ennis approach. On other roads uncut banks and road side hedges were noted. Though do note that hedges cannot be cut between March and August with wildlife in mind.

General Impression:

The adjudicator would like to wish you well with your plans for next year and hopefully all local organisations will help out for next year.