

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Marshalstown** Ref: **123**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **232**
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	39
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	232

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included the completed application form and a village map containing a legend indicating recently carried out works and proposals for the coming years. This map was of great assistance to the adjudicator during his visit to Marshalstown. Your committee of 10 are to be congratulated on engaging the help of other agencies. It is noted that the net is widening in relation to applications for development assistance and no doubt this approach will pay dividends in time.

The Built Environment:

It is good to see that the village still retains a commercial shop as many rural areas no longer contain this facility. Murphy's shop is centrally located and is well presented with a number of nicely planted flower tubs and seating area outside. The beautifully presented Church is prominently located and together with its magnificently presented grounds is a focal point of the village. The new grotto here was admired. The Community Hall was brightly painted and has appropriate lettering very much in scale with rural development. This attractive name sign located over the front porch provides a welcoming feeling. The planted flower tubs were a nice feature. The nearby school is one of the highlights of the village. On the day of adjudication it was bustling with activity and its well kept grounds, flower beds, shrubbery and maturing trees looked well.

Landscaping:

The village has a nice array of both hard and soft landscaping. The village itself is set in a mature woodland setting and the more recent tree planting has certainly reinforced this lovely setting. The cobble lock footpath opposite the Church is a great enhancement and sets off the magnificent stone walls that have certainly now

become the highlight of the village. Both the traditional loose stone walls in the surrounding area, and the built stone walls of the core, are a legacy that should be borne in mind when new developments occur.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The village already has a myriad of natural wildlife habitats. In view of the fact that you have already made a strong connection with the school, perhaps the committee could develop this liaison to instigate a wildlife project. The results could then be illustrated on bi-lingual, wildlife boards providing a further interesting information point in the village. There are a number of attractive locations throughout the village where these boards could be placed.

Litter Control:

We note your ongoing problems with indiscriminate dumping by people outside your community and hope that your continued liaison with Wexford County Council will lead to a successful conclusion. On the day of adjudication the village was generally litter free. Well done on this effort!

Waste Minimisation:

The Bring Centre at the Hall is well located and was clean and tidy. It is to be hoped that this programme will be developed in the coming years and that more initiatives from the Race Against Waste website will be adopted in the future

Tidiness:

The Church and its surrounding grounds together with its magnificent burial grounds and adjacent car park all give an air of tidiness. A number of constructions still remain to be completed, particularly two opposite the shop and we look forward to their completion. The contribution of the FAS scheme is obviously having a good effect.

Residential Areas:

There are a number of private residences located on various approach roads to the village and these in general are nicely presented with some colourful individual gardens. Perhaps some consideration should be given to a more uniform and co-ordinated expression to roadside boundaries of new developments. Developers might consider a more softened effect in the use of materials for these finishes, especially in the light of your great tradition of built stone walls and loose stone walls or perhaps a hedgerow. The well presented St Joseph's Terrace looked very well and the grassed areas were newly mown. The attractive stone boundary wall is lined with some nicely planted flower tubs and the stone bi-lingual name sign set on the paved area is a feature. Some weed control along the kerbs, internally to the scheme, is required. The litter bins are clean and tidy and emptied on the day of adjudication.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Surfaces were generally good and the car park and toilets adjacent to the burial ground were clean and well presented. The surface between Murphy's Shop, the magnificently presented Niala's and the grotto at the old burial ground was in need of some attention and some resurfacing here would be a great enhancement.

General Impression:

Marshalstown has a peaceful and tranquil setting and the hard work of your committee will no doubt continue to preserve and enhance this pleasant atmosphere. Well done on all your hard work!