

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Grange Con** Ref: **825**  
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **255**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>255</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you very much for the beautifully presented application with photos, maps and programmes. Thanks also for the inclusion of the Green Schools plan. The committee of 11 is well organised, with a common vision expressed through programmes of works covering several years at a time, and updated on an annual basis. This allows for easy understanding of whats achieved year to year, and where there are gaps to be revisited. The links with Wicklow County Council, Fás, Supervalu, and the school are all strong. There is communication through the newsletter. If there is any media coverage gained by the committee please do include it, as any work done in promoting sustainability or good practice will be a credit to you. Well done and best of luck in this years competition.

### **The Built Environment:**

All the buildings in Grange Con are remarkably well presented. There is lots of history here and the heritage has been respected, embraced and celebrated. You are commended on the approach taken to improve the school wall.

### **Landscaping:**

There is good variation of form and colour and year round interest in the plantings here. Particularly admired were the beds at entrance to Mallen Wood. It was noted that areas around trees were left wild to enhance habitat. The colour co-ordination for planters and tubs throughout the village is a very stylish approach and the blue bits caught the eye. An excellent dog sculpture was also admired. There has been extensive tree planting over the years here, to complete the program for 2000-2009.

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

It was a pleasure to read the Interpretive Panel near the pump. It celebrates the history of the area and provides excellent information for the visitor, well done. It is noted that the committee would like to develop the area beside the river at the church and plans for this are awaited with interest. A nature trail would be a great asset, if a loop route could be identified, signposted and info on flora and fauna along the way.

#### **Litter Control:**

There was no litter around whatsoever at time of adjudication. The regular clean-ups and awareness raising activities are getting the results. Keep up the good work, and link in with the school through the Green Schools programme whenever possible. There is also good opportunities for media coverage and general promotion in National Spring Clean in April.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

A big congratulations to all involved in gaining the Green Flag for the school! There are great opportunities to partner with the school and wider community now in taking waste minimisation further, and indeed pursuing energy efficiency and other sustainability projects. This has already been shown with the school carrying out a survey on the need for recycling banks in the area. I'm sure there will be plenty more partnership projects to report on in this section.

#### **Tidiness:**

Signage is all clean, kerbsides and verges all neat and trimmed. The statue of Our Lady is beautifully presented and looking fresh.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Residential areas are well maintained and presented. The granite entrance stone at Mallen's Wood looks very well.

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

All approaches look well, with neat verges and many trees lining the routes. The approach from Stratford is wonderfully neat and inviting. Its well signposted along the way which was appreciated! The name sign was admired particularly for stating 'West Wicklow' which just reinforces the sense of pride in the area.

#### **General Impression:**

It was a pleasure to visit Grangecon. It is an integrated village with a sense of purpose in its approach to the competition. There is a strong involvement of young people also which provides a positive outlook for the future. Well done on work to date and best wishes for further success.