

Tidy Towns Competition 2011

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Edgeworthstown** Ref: **714**
County: **Longford** Mark: **220**
Category: **C** Date(s): **23/06/2011**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2010	Mark Awarded 2011
Overall Development Approach	50	29	31
The Built Environment	50	28	28
Landscaping	50	31	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25	28
Litter Control	50	28	28
Waste Minimisation	20	7	7
Tidiness	30	15	16
Residential Areas	40	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25	25
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	400	213	220

Overall Development Approach:

Greetings Edgeworthstown and welcome to the 2011 TidyTowns competition. Your entry is welcome and appreciated. Once again our compliments on a well filled in entry form and a very clear and comprehensive map. Please do not feel constrained by the size of the entry form. If you need more space feel free to attach more pages. You are fortunate in having such a large committee and we note that, in addition to your own meetings, you meet with the town development association. In your entry form you identify sources of funding for specific projects and also how you influenced others to enhance Edgeworthstown on your behalf. You communicate using a wide range of media. Well done. However, in future entries please send us copies and cuttings of publicity material. They may gain you extra marks and they will be returned to you. However, it was with great interest that we came to your 3 year plan and the biodiversity audit. Very well done Edgeworthstown TidyTowns committee. Both are very well written and will equip you to plan focussed, effective work programmes and to secure funding by illustrating to potential sources of funds that you know what needs to be done to make Edgeworthstown a place that the community will have great pride in, others want to live or work in and visitors will want to stop in. Thank you for the copy of the invitation to the launch of your 3 year plan last February. Obviously, you had little time to implement the recommendations in year 1 of the 3 year plan. Although dated 2011 – 2013, effectively it will be a 2012 – 2014 plan. However, we do note that some projects recommended in both the 2011 section of your 3 year plan and the biodiversity audit are included in the relevant category in this adjudicator's report. However, you will not be held to account for other recommended projects that are not in this year's entry form. Submitting a detailed 3 year plan, the 2011 work programme extract from that plan and a biodiversity audit really shows that Edgeworthstown TidyTowns means business. Very well done to all involved.

The Built Environment:

The Railway Station and it's environs were clean, tidy and well presented. St Mary's RC Church looks very

well after its cleaning and the planters were noted. The surrounds were tidy. The Garda Station was enhanced with the use of window boxes. St Mary's National School was clean and tidy. The adjudicator noted that it had just been awarded its first Green Flag. Well done St Mary's. There is a national school in County Longford that has 5 Green Flags. There is a target now for St Mary's. The cemetery was tidy. St John's Church of Ireland was tidy and the grounds well maintained. The doors of the old fire station need to be painted but that probably will not be done now that there is a new station. St John's School is well presented with lots of window boxes. Mostrim GAA club would benefit from planting/painting. On main street Jack's Corner and the Porter House caught the eye. The Fair Green is extremely well presented. The Black River, running through it has been made a feature of it, rather than being culverted. The sports facilities are very good and the clubhouse is a very attractive building. The area around the Fair Green had been improved, footpaths upgraded, power lines put underground and landscaping features added. The new fire station was admired. Well done to all concerned.

Landscaping:

Quite a lot of landscaping has been done. Already mentioned in the built environment category is the landscaping at the Fair Green and the adjacent roundabout. The landscaping near the junction of Granard and Castlepollard roads was admired. The use of additional hanging baskets and planters has enhanced the town. Planting young trees on the N4 bypass was a very good initiative. The planting on the roundabout was also noted. Approach roads are very important in helping to create a good first impression. The new metal blue and white town signs located on approach roads present an opportunity to landscape around them or build a raised flower bed at the base of them. These new town name signs are more elegant than the ones they replaced and advantage should be taken of them. Good work was carried out in this category. Well done to all concerned.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The knotweed spraying is more appropriate in the tidiness category which includes weed control. The other 2 projects that are listed in this category sound very interesting. Setting up a wildlife corridor on the Fair Green with the assistance of an ecologist (Noreen McLoughlin MSc?) is a very good idea. Preparing a site on the Black River close to the bypass as a spring wetlands area is a good start for another interesting initiative. The Edgeworthstown biodiversity audit and management plan which you sent with the entry form made very interesting reading. The 2 projects above are a great start to implementing the plan. It is noted that the plan is dated May 2011 so there was little time to implement many of its recommendations for this year's competition. We congratulate Edgeworthstown TidyTowns for commissioning this plan.

Litter Control:

Thank you for the photographs showing well equipped litter pickers at work. Your regular litter clean-ups on Sunday are effective. Although some litter was seen on adjudication day Edgeworthstown was almost litter free. Your volunteer meetings each Thursday are noted, also their patrols. Your entry form says that you participated in the Spring Clean in 2010. Presumably that should be 2011. It is noted that you supplied pickers and high vis jackets to the 2 national schools.

Waste Minimisation:

Noted that you promoted best practice among businesses to encourage them to adopt a zero attitude towards waste. Also noted that you worked with St Mary's N.S to achieve its first Green Flag and you are working with them to get their second Green Flag. You are similarly assisting St John's N.S. The 4 waste audits that are being carried out in the business and domestic sectors are welcomed. The results should be informative. Thank you for the 2 letters from C&D Foods and from Paul and Vincent Ltd, confirming their support for, and commitment to, a range of best practices. They will be returned to you.

Tidiness:

As mentioned earlier in this report the spraying of knotweed is part of this category. It is noted that your biodiversity audit strongly recommended that this weed be eliminated. Congratulations for your successful grant application to Longford Resource Centre to put ESB cables underground. The continuing of your other weed control programme was noted. Well done on reaching agreement with Longford County Council that non-uniform, obsolete rubbish bins would be replaced. This was strongly recommended in your 3 year plan. The making all signage on roundabouts uniform is to be welcomed. Also welcomed is your agreement with Longford County Council that they will replace and make road signs uniform. Well done to all concerned.

Residential Areas:

Kilbride Park looked very well with lots of hanging baskets, planters with young trees and flowers. All of the houses were nicely painted. Overall, excellent. Nearby Auburn Park and Clover Hill have potential but the grassed areas needed to be cut. There was some graffiti. Attempts had been made to paint over it. Houses are well presented but, overall, these estates were let down by very high grass. Devine Crescent was well

presented with grassed areas that were well maintained. Goldsmith Meadow and River Park had a mixture of well presented to neglected/overgrown. Elsewhere in the town residential properties reflected the social background and social strata of the community. Your continued liaison with, and support for, residents associations is noted. We also note that you carry out small projects in residential areas on selected Thursdays. Your work in Shannon Park is also noted.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The N4 bypass is very good and landscaping and signage improvements have been commented on elsewhere in this report. Footpaths and verges are in good condition. Approach roads are good but verges need maintenance in places. Landscaping at the new town name signs would help define the town boundaries (and start of the adjudication area) and help to improve the first impression of the town on the approach roads. Approach on the Granard road has a large direction sign. However, the sign on the Castlepollard Road, on adjudication day, badly needed to be cleaned. In the town streets are good and there are some new footpaths. The railings at the junction of Granard Road and Main Street have been painted. Your 3 year plan has a schedule of recommendations for further enhancement.

General Impression:

Thanks to the bypass, Edgeworthstown has its town back to itself, almost. It has considerable potential to exploit and it now has a 3 year plan to help it face the future in a structured way. It also has a biodiversity audit to help it to exploit that aspect of the town.

Support agencies are being supportive even in these recessionary times and long may their support continue. Well done Edgeworthstown Tidy Towns committee for achieving so much so soon after your return to the Tidy Towns competition. You have 2 excellent reports to guide you and to assist you in increasing your funding support. Your future looks bright. Again, well done to all involved.