

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Enniscorthy** Ref: **216**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **281**
Category: **E** Date(s): **24/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	50	43	42
Landscaping	50	43	42
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31	31
Litter Control	50	17	26
Tidiness	30	16	18
Waste Minimisation	20	9	9
Residential Areas	40	31	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	274	281

Overall Development Approach:

Céad míle fáilte roimh Enniscorthy TidyTowns Association to the 2012 TidyTowns competition. We thank you for your entry, for the maps, the photos, your Action Plan and all of the supplementary material. We hope that the TidyTowns experience for 2012 will be a worthwhile experience for your group. Your committee appears to be well bedded into the suggested way in which a TidyTowns committee should function. Your committee meets regularly, engages with local agencies that can assist you in your projects. You keep your community updated and you attempt to give your committee ownership of the work through inviting them to be involved. Your engagement with the schools also seems to be effective, being involved at both primary and secondary level. If the competition invigorates your pride in Enniscorthy then it justifies all of the hard work. You have gone to a lot of trouble to assist the adjudicator in his survey, trouble that is much appreciated. Naming the streets proved most helpful. This adjudicator does not wish to be lead around a centre but prefers to drive and walk/cycle as the spirit takes him in order to get as rounded a flavour as possible of that centre. The main purpose of the map is to visit projects of the current year. The adjudicator requests of you to reduce the amount of material you enclose, as in the case of your litter management plan which should be summarised into a few sentences for the purposes of the competition. Your SWOT analysis, for instance, is a matter for your committee but not for the adjudicator. The danger in submitting too much material is that what is relevant may be overlooked. So be more discerning in the material you submit. As a result the adjudicator is not raising your mark in this section.

The Built Environment:

Whether the adjudicator follows your suggested route or makes his own way Enniscorthy is a wonderful tour from a built environment viewpoint as the ancient, the not so old and the modern combine to stimulate the imagination and maintain interest. The Slaney and its crossing has most likely been the original cause of habitation in this place and the Slaney has had a significant influence on the built environment of the town,

right through to today. The complex of stone buildings now housing Dunnes, The Bailey, SuperValu illustrate that past. It is great that those buildings have been adapted to survive in a new era. The castle, so wonderfully preserved, points up the importance of the river for commercial and political reasons. The Dufrey Gate signals the importance of fortification in the town's past. As one descends into the main shopping areas the strong colours on the shops invite one to stop and stare. Very effective. The influence of religion on the people is also clearly represented in the magnificent churches. On snooping around St Aidans Church the adjudicator came on what could be the bishop's palace. What a façade! The arrival of a car meant a hasty withdrawal. Your commemorative monuments celebrate the folly of heroism. Bóithrín an Ospidéil led one to what must be your most understated heritage building, as the adjudicator presumes he has located the ospidéal. Steep declines into town away from the quay area provide interesting vistas of the town streetscape. Of course unoccupied and derelict buildings are unfortunate. The building that most upset the adjudicator was the fine theatre. Is it closed because of lack of support, one wonders. Why the drop in marks? In the view of the adjudicator an award of 86per cent cannot be justified.

Landscaping:

The highlight of the landscaping design of Enniscorthy for this adjudicator is the treatment of the areas along by the river. It is as if the river is sacred, is the font of life of the town. Access, easy access, must be made available to the town dwellers, seems to be your cant. And how the river banks are enjoyed as a result of the inviting, neatly trimmed grassed areas, the attractive benches overlooking the river, the stroll on a solid path for what seems like miles along what you call the promenade. The kids are enjoying the playground. The adjudicator wanted one go on the Tarzan rope but the notice about respect dissuaded him. Good notice. Then there are the trees, for which you deserve some credit too. Around the town planters of various shapes and sizes brighten their surroundings. Window boxes and hanging baskets bring summer colour to buildings and streets. There is evidence of your delight in tree planting. Key locations in town are targeted for special treatment with planters of summer bedding creating a wholesome appearance. Shrubberies are maintained also. The climb up Hospital Lane was worth the efforts to see the fruits of you landscaping labour around the Fire Station. Along the street one gets the lovely aroma of the flowering privet. Between plazas and parks the townspeople of Enniscorthy have much to enjoy. Why the drop in marks? In the view of the adjudicator an award of 86per cent cannot be justified.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

One hopes that among the plethora of pages that the adjudicator has not missed important information in this section as the text in your submission was difficult to follow. Well done on the work that you have undertaken during the year. One is particularly impressed that you combine your landscaping planting with the benefits to wildlife in mind, that you make resident associations aware of why native trees are more suitable for planting. In what way does the fact that the Slaney river is a SAC impact on your wildlife plans and activities?

Litter Control:

The adjudicator encourages you to use a summarised form of the material from your litter management plan in your entry to show that you have researched the town litter blackspots and to highlight the litter challenges for the town. Your management plan spoke of 'Environment education of the young' but there has been no action on this litter awareness strategy in this year's 'projects undertaken' list in the entry form. The concept of the 'bui bolg' suggests a fun approach to litter control, a great approach. So now an end to the sermonising. It gives the adjudicator great pleasure to raise your mark by ten from last year. The amounts of litter found were not excessive. There appears to have been a great improvement since last year. Even the bins are attractive although the previous generation of bins were even more charming. There is one from a previous generation still up around Aldi but it is in need of an overhaul. The adjudicator found it while searching for something on your map that was never found. Well done. Keep up the good work. But do not forget 'Environment education of the young'. While you are at it try a programme on 'Environment education of the grown up smoker'.

Tidiness:

This year's adjudicator found the report from last year depressing in both the litter and tidiness sections. What with a complicated map that would have a person spending the day looking for parking spaces and the above mentioned reports the adjudicator was not eagerly looking forward to his day out in Enniscorthy. I parked once and walked to all destinations except approach roads and estates. The inner town is a joy. Yes be mindful of the quality of street shop front signs. Some are too tacky for this 'Baile Stairiúil'. There is very little graffiti but keep it under control. There are a lot of overhead cables and then there are none. Grasp the opportunity to duct when it arrives. There are miles of railings around the town. The adjudicator found only one stretch that needs to be looked after. Finger sign posting is beautiful but there is one that is obscured by the foliage around it. Your street name signs are a special attraction. Most footpaths are solid, uncracked and safe. There are times when the road markings need to be upgraded. The main complaint from this year's survey is the apparent traffic unrest. Enniscorthy is the number one town this year for honking horns in the

experience of the adjudicator. While the one way system seems to work well there are some two way streets requiring a special treatment, like a special speed limit maybe. Or maybe the people of Enniscorthy have adjusted to the traffic and think all is fine. Remember the adjudicator was walking those two way streets. Except in Templeshannon I was driving and lorries on two occasions drew a prayer. The bridge area is a challenge for pedestrians. Do a survey of redundant poles in town. You will find at least one. Encourage shop owners to reduce window clutter. It is hard to imagine that signs on your wonderful finger posting could get lost in a hedge.

Waste Minimisation:

Your engagement with the Transition Year students is the most exciting project that you have undertaken in the past year. One hopes that the awareness of the importance of waste minimisation this engagement inculcates into the students will have lasting behavioural effects. Now you need similar engagement with the grown up population of Enniscorthy. This year's adjudicator will confine himself to encouraging you to stimulate waste elimination projects in the household. You are encouraged to visit the greenhomes.ie website and to register your group. From there inform the locals through Facebook on the household waste management tips. Encourage householders to register also. Well done on your recycling work. Bear in mind that recycling is just one aspect of waste minimisation. The emphasis must be on minimisation in the home and in business.

Residential Areas:

Well done on the measures taken since last year. The adjudicator missed Gimont Avenue. This adjudicator's attention is drawn to the references to residents associations mentioned in last year's report. Has anything happened? I would not confine residents associations to the many estates all over town but also to the many traditional terraces of houses that make up the traditional town centre and its immediate environs and the many local authority estates and terraces in inner Enniscorthy. There is a great opportunity for you to raise your profile by setting up inter estate and inter villa competitions. There are lovely terraces that are looking that bit bland because no one takes them by the scruff of the neck to improve their presentation either by fresh paint or by floral decoration. The newer estates are managed, have their landscaping in place, their name stone proclaims their presence. Those invaluable villas in town very often do not have even a name plate. Another project.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The people of Enniscorthy have been dealt a decent hand by nature in landscaping. The sheer cliffs provide a special feature backdrop to one's arrival from Wexford and there is the river on the other side. The N30 also treats one to rural delights on the road from Clonroche. An Enniscorthy sign is rusting on one approach road. Wispy road verge grass creates the wrong impression. Other routes are influenced by the residential areas whose landscaping brightens up their surroundings. But the gala effect is through the cliff edges and the wandering Slaney. There is no consistency in the Ros Mhic Treoin welcome. It is a 'Céad Míle Fáilte' in some places and non-existent on other roads. Keep an eye on advertising hoarding on approach roads. You mention washing signage and keep this to the fore. The connecting lanes between streets create a unique attraction as, for instance, the one that leads from the car park at the Garda Station onto a street or the wonderful laneway Sráid na Sláine. One loved the way in which one street leads easily to another or one can take a lane from one level to another. The adjudicator was pleased not to find any back area that looked neglected.

General Impression:

It seemed strange that you had no entry in this section of your entry. There are issues that you have faced. List them in the general impression section. From an adjudicator viewpoint Enniscorthy is an enjoyable experience. The steep hill brings with it its own charm and character. Having an enthusiastic Tidy Towns committee bears fruit as is clear from the appearance of the town and the ongoing works. For next year's adjudicator make your submission less cumbersome. Nár laga Dia bhur n-iarrachtaí'.