

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Enniskerry** Ref: **255**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **268**
Category: **D** Date(s): **17/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	0	45
The Built Environment	50	0	38
Landscaping	50	0	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	0	26
Litter Control	50	0	34
Tidiness	30	0	17
Waste Minimisation	20	0	6
Residential Areas	40	0	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	0	32
General Impression	10	0	8
TOTAL MARK	400	0	268

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Enniskerry Tidy Towns to the 2012 Tidy Towns competition after an absence of 5 years. Your entry is very much appreciated.

Thank you for the entry form and the attachment expanding on it. Unfortunately, there was no key to the numbers with the map. Fortunately your adjudicator knows Enniskerry very well and had no difficulty locating the projects numbered on you map. Perhaps they could be written on the back of the map for next years entry.

Your committee of 4 is small for a town of its size. Support from the community will increase when your visibility and activities increase.

You communicate using a variety of media. No mention is made of a parish newsletter or local newspapers. They are always looking for material to print.

We note that liaison with your schools will start in September next.

The Built Environment:

Enniskerry is blessed in having a wide range of assets that make up its built environment. The most iconic of these is the clock tower which stands in the centre of the town on its granite surround. The magnificent, new landscaping beside it will be commented on in the Landscaping Category. The clock tower is in very good condition despite its age. One wonders if it is a clock tower as there is no clock in it now nor any indication of where it might have been.

Facing the clock tower is the Parochial Hall which is very well presented. Well painted, the panel over the immaculate hall door with its name is clean and legible. Some shrubs set it off nicely and the 2 hanging baskets flanking the hall door add a splash of colour. The railings are well painted but the wall that they are on could be cleaned and painted. The bollards on the footpath look well but the litter bin beside them needs to be painted. The old phone box is clean and well painted.

The nearby Church of Ireland national school looks very well. Architecturally it is probably the same vintage as the Parochial Hall. At the top of the village St. Patrick's Church of Ireland was surrounded by bustle as it hosted a fête. It adds a lot of character to the village, particularly its row of monkey puzzle trees, not forgetting its other majestic, mature trees. Stone walls lead all the way down to the village. There are cobbled gutters beside the footpath. Unique.

The old forge is a distinctive building that cannot be mistaken for anything else.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and the nearby St. Mary's and St. Gerard's National School both look very well - neat and tidy. The school has one Green Flag.

On the approach from the N11 the old hall looks well, clean and well painted. Unfortunately, the disused garage next door is an eyesore. The Texaco filling station at the outskirts of the village on the R117 is also derelict and a major eyesore.

The commercial properties around the triangle in the centre of the village project the positive image that befits Enniskerry. The Powerscourt Arms stands out. All the other commercial premises are well presented, some recently painted e.g. Sugar and Ice, Stephen Pearce and Kennedys. These 3 premises improved their looks at the behest of Enniskerry Tidy Towns.

Two other public buildings that should be mentioned are the Garda Station, which is well painted, and has colourful window boxes and the library which nestles comfortably among sumptuous shrubs and flowers

Landscaping:

Enniskerry lies in a valley surrounded by lush growth, including an abundance of mature trees. Rather than try to compete with nature any landscaping should seek to compliment it. Majestic, mature trees surround St. Patrick's Church of Ireland, including a splendid row of magnificent Monkey Puzzle trees that run from the church down the hill to the edge of the village.

The new landscaping at the Clock Tower sets a very high standard for future landscaping in the village. It is low maintenance planting with colour and variety and year-round effect. The landscaping firm is to be commended.

The landscaping around the Library is eye-catching.

Enniskerry Tidy Towns also has planters at strategic locations throughout the village.

Housing estates have landscaping which will be commented on in the Residential Areas category.

It is noted that, in partnership with the Village Forum, you intend to apply to LEADER for grant support for a long term plan for Enniskerry, which will include landscaping. We wish your application every success.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The countryside around Enniskerry abounds with wildlife. As Enniskerry Tidy Towns has just returned to the competition after an absence of 5 years it is understandable that you have not completed any projects in this category for this year.

It is good to learn that the Fás worker that started with you last April is helping to restore the nature trail in Bog Meadow.

A wildlife survey and/or a habitats survey would help your committee to formulate a plan and prioritise projects. These surveys can be carried out jointly with the St. Mary's and St. Gerard's National School as part of its Green Flag programme. Perhaps you would explore this with the school.

Litter Control:

On adjudication day there was litter seen only at 2 locations - the Bring Bank and at an overflowing litter bin

near the clubhouse in the Bog Meadow.

The Bring Bank had a lot of litter - mainly cardboard, paper and drink containers. The litter bin was overflowing and litter of all sorts was strewn around it.

Your efforts to keep the approach roads as free of litter as possible are paying dividends, judging by the quantities that you have collected. Well done to all involved.

It is noted that you have a strong commitment from the traders and the Kilgarron Park residents association that they will maintain a litter free environment in their areas.

Tidiness:

Thankfully Enniskerry is not beset with tidiness issues. Your anti-weed programme for footpaths and kerbs, which is part of your general clean-ups, is effective in the centre of the village. However, weed control is needed in Monastery Grove.

Enniskerry was very busy on adjudication day but this resulted in traffic congestion in and around the centre of the village.

Waste Minimisation:

It is noted that you segregate waste. However, a Tidy Towns committee is expected to be proactive in promoting best practice in the community. The Tidy Towns handbook has advice and tips on ways to do this e.g. use the parish newsletter, if there is one, to get the message across.

As part of its Green Flag programme the school will be implementing waste minimisation techniques. Perhaps they would brief you on these.

A key objective is to reduce the amount of material that is brought into the town and subsequently ends up as waste e.g. buy fruit and veg loose in a paper bag rather than on a tray covered in cling film. Food waste is also included in this category. A helpful web site is www.stopfoodwaste.ie.

Residential Areas:

It is appreciated that, having recently returned to the Tidy Towns competition, it will take you some time to develop relationships with residents associations.

Your adjudicator visited the residential areas and found that landscaping needed attention in some places in Monastery Grove. Also verges needed trimming and weed control is needed on footpaths and at the base of walls. The road surface was poor in places.

Other residential areas were, generally, well presented with varying degrees of landscaping. Grassed areas were tidy and many front gardens were well planted. There were no litter issues on adjudication day.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads into Enniskerry generally create a good first impression. But there are issues. On two of them which have been referred to already in this report.

The approach on the R117 from Dublin is marred by the derelict state of the Texaco filling station on the outskirts of the village while the disused garage on the approach from the N11 detracts from the good first impression of Enniskerry. Other approaches give a good first impression of the village.

Your initiative with St. Gerard's school was read with interest.

Well done on clearing ivy on the bridge at the Bog Meadow.

General Impression:

Enniskerry Tidy Towns has made a good start after an absence of 5 years from the competition. Your difficulty in getting volunteers is noted. Some other entrants commented in their application forms that volunteers increased when they saw the Tidy Towns team out on the streets in high viz vests.

It is good to have you back, Enniskerry Tidy Towns. We look forward to receiving your entry in the 2013 Tidy Towns competition.