

# Tidy Towns Competition 2013

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Edenderry** Ref: **550**  
County: **Offaly** Mark: **260**  
Category: **E** Date(s): **05/06/2013**

|   | <b>Maximum<br/>Mark</b> | <b>Mark<br/>Awarded<br/>2012</b> | <b>Mark<br/>Awarded<br/>2013</b> |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Overall Development Approach              | 50                      | 39                               | 40                               |
| The Built Environment                     | 50                      | 38                               | 39                               |
| Landscaping                               | 50                      | 38                               | 39                               |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities            | 50                      | 25                               | 26                               |
| Litter Control                            | 50                      | 24                               | 23                               |
| Sustainable Waste And Resource Management | 20                      | 12                               | 12                               |
| Tidiness                                  | 30                      | 15                               | 14                               |
| Residential Areas                         | 40                      | 31                               | 33                               |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas             | 50                      | 27                               | 27                               |
| General Impression                        | 10                      | 7                                | 7                                |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>                         | <b>400</b>              | <b>256</b>                       | <b>260</b>                       |

### Overall Development Approach:

The TidyTowns Association is possessed of high ideals - this is manifest in the content of your entry form and also in the appearance of the town which has improved enormously since this adjudicator's last visit over a decade ago. It is good to read of your positive relationships with a number of official and voluntary bodies and that you have representatives of the residents' associations on your committee. It is also encouraging to learn that you have invited members of the committees of successful centres in the competition to speak to your own people. Your cooperation with schools, considered essential, is clearly in the forefront of your policy. Incidentally, a map was not enclosed so the map from the previous year was used probably to satisfactory effect though there may have been some confusion about the Business Park and the Business Campus. Your quoted mission statement is admirable.

### The Built Environment:

A great deal is planned for the immediate future but for the past year it is clear that you have been consolidating work previously achieved. The splendid Romanesque Roman Catholic church is beautifully maintained within and without; the external statues need attention due to weathering. The hilltop Church of Ireland church is well kept: it was not possible to read the name of the distinguished gentleman whose statue stands outside. The schools were all looking bright (as well as busy) - it was not possible to discern which had recently been given a 'face-lift'; Scoil Brid certainly looked immaculate. The town square was looking well but we will expect to see the imaginatively planned improvements next year. The traditional dignity of the Town Hall, Credit Union and Bank of Ireland can not be denied a mention; the fine commercial building with the clock tower at the other end of the street is marred by over-enthusiastic advertising. Colourful, and probably very recent, shopfronts on the short street leading to Dunne's give the entire neighbourhood a visual lift. The Youth Cafe making use of a listed building was favourably noted.

### Landscaping:

Neat flowerbeds were seen in a number of locations including the Business Park, and fine big shrub and flower containers in the main street; well nurtured hanging baskets and window boxes were also seen. Extensive tree planting, clearly there for some years, now gives a mature appearance to the roads of the Business Campus. The roundabout at the same location was in need of attention. The grounds of the Parish Centre are pleasantly planted as is the nearby cemetery. On Church Walk the ancient yews have apparently been taken in hand but

invasive shoots of ivy were starting to appear in their midst.

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

Some narrow bye-roads on the outskirts of the town were looking really charming at the time of the visit with flowering hedges and wild flowers proliferating on banks and ditches. The canal tow-path was walked for about a mile; the ducks were enjoying their accommodation at the town end and other birds were seen further out. Some canal sign age is in need of cleaning for legibility. Nesting boxes were noted. Blue tits, great tits and house sparrows were seen from your inventory to have been the only tenants - why would this be? The population count sadly shows no mistle thrushes and only solitary and occasional song thrushes. Congratulations on the work of the Offaly Community Forum and Blackthorn Ecology on recording, communicating and enhancing the local wild life. The bug hotels - not seen except in photographs - at the Boys National School is an interesting project and must give enjoyment.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter is a variable, day by day and often hour by hour, depending upon where it is being dropped and where picked up by civically minded people, often children. There was quite an amount of disposable litter on adjudication day, and this may have been unusual. Litter was quite noticeable, for example, at the intersection of the Rathangan road, in the private car park near Bundell's wood, on the canal tow-path (bottles and cans) - there may be insufficient bins here - and in a car park near St Mary's school. It is clear that shop owners keep their frontages very clear and in most housing estates one did not see a speck of litter. A word of praise for those who give so much of their time to controlling littering.

### **Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:**

It was good to read that members of your committee took part in a Master Compositing course. And that you are registered with the Green Homes Survey. Did you take part in the waste audit mentioned last year? Are you advising on wise use of resources and are you spreading knowledge of what may and what may not be recycled. It is assumed that schools have achieved green flag status though you do not mention this and the adjudicator failed to note which schools were flying the green flag - but best wishes to those that do.

### **Tidiness:**

The 'commercial' end of the town - as distinct from the 'educational' end - seems to be much less aware of the desirability to keep their neighbour tidy. Unnecessarily large advertising signs and banners on the Enfield road give a poor impression of the entrance to Edenderry. There are several supermarkets and large stores here that do not seem to take note of the concept of 'tidiness'. A concrete and iron fence fronting the Livestock Mart needs attention. The corner by the Fun Fair is very scruffy indeed and this is not by any means due entirely to the amusements. While kerbside weed was not a major issue throughout the town on adjudication day, there was considerable weed in the neighbourhood behind and adjacent to Dunne's, and kerbside weed in abundance on an unnamed road leading to Derrybeg. You are clearly dealing effectively with problems of dereliction.

### **Residential Areas:**

Many town centre houses were presented with real pride. Several fine 18th and 19th century residences were noted. The cottages opposite St Michael's church are very attractive indeed, in fact cottages in a number of locations such as the Rathangan road give a very good impression. Town centre Carrick Hall impressed with its strong timber fencing and elegant lamps, but here the unfinished end is marred by a dilapidated hoarding - its replacement would be simple and relatively inexpensive. Carrick Vale is well maintained though some boundary walls are in need of freshening up with paint - the same applies at Church View and Fair Green. The homes of Carraig Ban are notable for the use of brick and stone in walls and boundaries, evidence of good design, but the unfinished section is a disappointment and the raised manhole covers require attention. Pleasant Weavers Court is marred by an unsightly hoarding where development was abandoned. Boyne Meadows is very neatly kept; more tree planting on the edge of the vast central lawns would further enhance this fine estate. Clanmullen Hall could also do with more planting: the names 'Block A, B: etc, has a deadening effect - can pleasanter local names not be found? Clanmullen Lodge does well in shrubberies and ground cover. Derrybeg-Newberry is exceptionally well kept. St Patrick's Wood certainly lives up to its award-winning status. The retention of the original blackthorn hedges at the road's end was a brilliant idea and does not conflict at all with the spic-and-span look of the lawns. The may-blossom was at its height at the time of adjudication.

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

Main street has been greatly improved since this adjudicator's last visit especially with tree planting and paving. Surfaces are very variable throughout the town but the main approach roads are of fair quality and there are immense improvements in course of construction on the Enfield road. A road leading from the commercial quarter to a residential has been blocked without explanation. Not all streets and housing development have name signs.

### **General Impression:**

It has been a real pleasure to revisit Edenderry because real progress was seen. Much has still to be achieved and you have a very full programme of major and minor projects coming on stream. These will be looked

forward to. In the meantime every good wish for your very evident spirit of enterprise.