

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrig-on-Bannow** Ref: **1727**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **251**
Category: **B** Date(s): **19/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	30	32
The Built Environment	50	38	38
Landscaping	50	36	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18	19
Litter Control	50	32	32
Tidiness	30	19	19
Waste Minimisation	20	4	7
Residential Areas	40	30	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	30
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	400	245	251

Overall Development Approach:

Céad míle fáilte roimh Carrig-on-Bannow to the 2012 TidyTowns competition. Hopefully your committee and village will benefit from the experience of being part of this national competition. Thank you for your submission, for the photos, for the beautiful description of a beloved village and for other supplementary information. The TidyTowns movement seems to belong to the whole community in Carrig-on-Bannow, a wonderful start. Thank you for describing concisely the contribution that the Wexford County Council and Fás make to your work. This adjudicator is not aware of the work done by Tús. One would love to read what the results of your survey show. Those results could form the basis of a 3 Year Plan. Great that you have an active connection with the school. What is the nature of your relationship with the school? Three Green Flags for your school is a noteworthy achievement. It is gratifying for someone from TidyTowns to read that the competition helps motivate members of the community to get out and get their fingers dirty for the sake of the appearance of the village. Last year's adjudicator gave a long sermon on formulating a 3 Year Plan. Use the survey of what the people want for the village as a start for 2013.

The Built Environment:

The main street of Carrig-on-Bannow is an attractive street with its gentle curve. The Church stands stoutly in its site, the carpark well planted and clean. The school is also a visual delight in the heart of the village. Moving on the big building that is the Community Centre is very well presented in its fresh paint and also its hanging baskets. Well done. Residences along the street look well too. But you should look to business owners to improve their signs. The shop signs are modern and glitzy and not in character with the traditional streetscape. Colfer's is not included in this criticism. Its strong colour adds to the street personality. Teach na n-Óg presents an inviting appearance to all the toddlers who will attend. Carrig House is ablaze with colour. The farm buildings on the street proclaim their entitlement to be there and can take their place at this table also. B/B and Post Office look delightful. The Garda station is attractive in its understated way.

The memorial is attractively presented.

Under roads you mention a ring fort. That should be mentioned in this section. The adjudicator did not find it. Be more specific in your map markings.

Landscaping:

Your committee puts a special emphasis on landscaping and the results are dotted all over, to your great credit. Very often the planted area is small but the effect is significant. One is made aware of your planting capabilities from the time of arrival, no matter from which direction.

There are numerous examples of delightful planting throughout the Carrig-on-Bannow experience. Examples are the colourful planting at Teach na n-Óg, the beds to the front of walls of beautiful houses down from the Post Office, the treatment of road signs, your flagship project this year which is the blue boat, that little bed near the Garda station and of course the jubilee gardens and the tiered garden.

Pots are used to good effect as at the entrance to Caisleán an Dínigh. One hopes that the estate on the Wellington Bridge side begins to create its own landscaping. The block wall could be a haven for bird life with the correct planting.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on using the expertise of the Wildlife Ranger from JF Kennedy Park to assist you survey the area. You evidently have a wide range of wildlife in the area. Now that you know who your fellow residents in Carrig-on-Bannow are find out where their habitats are so that they can be protected from human predators, most especially. Last year's adjudicator advice should be heeded about recognising the wildlife resources in your area. It is great that you intend to involve the school in creating feed areas for your birds and insects.

Litter Control:

You can be rightly proud of the appearance of Carrig-on-Bannow. There is very little litter to be found. People use bins. So well done on the May clean up. The adjudicator could not understand the beach clean up. But it shows civic pride in your area to help the people of Cullenstown, or wherever. It is a fright to see grass clippings dumped at the exit to one estate, grass that could be composted. The Bring Centre is clean and well presented. One would encourage you to place greater emphasis on litter awareness and litter reduction strategies. One would like to read of those strategies in next year's submission.

Tidiness:

Well done on the tidiness measures taken during the year as in removing a redundant pole and unsightly tyres. The main street presents itself in a tidy, relaxed manner. The Fás worker is attending to what weeds there are. The street is swept, the buildings fresh. One is not conscious of street or window clutter. There is one half of a timber gate that needs renewal beside the Community Centre. Regrettably the adjudicator came on a back area adjacent to the school field. Maybe a gentle word with the owner might change the appearance of the place. The lead into this area is so attractive that one would not anticipate what is around the corner.

Waste Minimisation:

Congratulations to your school for gaining three Green Flags. There was only one fluttering to day. Do not hide your achievements. The effects of this achievement will filter through to the waste management practices in the home and the attitudes of the parents. Your recycling practices are also praiseworthy. The newspaper recycling at the front of the school is praiseworthy. But just a word of warning. Recycling is but one element of waste minimisation. For the coming winter focus on methods of waste minimisation in the home and farm. Your plans for a composting workshop and on cooking left-overs are good examples of what is demanded in this section of the competition. Those plans show that you are heeding the suggestions of last year's report. This year's suggestion is that you visit greenhomes.ie.

Residential Areas:

The presentation of the houses in the village is of a very high standard. Housing along the street is vibrantly decorated. There are so many houses on the approach roads that bring personality to their particular surroundings. One is also impressed by the presentation of estates. Hopefully Carraig Dhubh will soon be fully occupied. Then landscaping can proceed. Caisleán an Dínigh makes a positive impression from the start. The tyres are ready for planting. But why use the tyres? Set your flower beds on a raised wall bed or on the natural surface. Teach na n-Óg sparks the entrance to light. The estate near the Community Centre deserves a name plate or stone just like the estates outside of town. The houses are well presented, the

landscaping a treat. What's with the Christmas decorations? Having representatives of the estates on your committee is a forward looking approach. But, alas, it does not always lead to positive action.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Your committee is leaving its mark at all the approach roads to the village. You may not have name stones yet but you adorn the Carrig-on-Bannow sign on every route. Well done. The curve at the Duncormick side is a little rough and may need the assistance of the County Council. The roads are enlivened by the appearance of the residents houses. Sometimes verges are manicured and this adds to the appearance. You need to keep an eye on grass encroaching onto pathways and roadways, as on the Duncormick side after Carraig Dhubh. Roadsigns are well presented.

One can imagine that traffic could be a problem in Carrig-on-Bannow so your engagement with the Wexford County Council is vital in promoting traffic control.

General Impression:

The stand-out memory of the visit to Carrig-on-Bannow is seeing a lady volunteer go from bed to bed weeding and painting while a beautiful raised rose bed in an estate surrounded by houses, and therefore residents, goes untended. You are a credit to the spirit of volunteerism in your village, dear lady. One urges your committee to engage with the residents of estates to join in on the TidyTowns mission for the village, while acknowledging that some of those residents are members of your committee. The positive results of your work are apparent throughout Carrig-on-Bannow.