

# Tidy Towns Competition 2011

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cappoquin** Ref: **853**  
County: **Waterford** Mark: **266**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **10/07/2011**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2010</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	50	30	30
Landscaping	50	34	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30	30
Litter Control	50	36	36
Waste Minimisation	20	6	6
Tidiness	30	16	18
Residential Areas	40	31	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29	31
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>266</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Cappoquin is most welcome to the 2011 TidyTowns competition – *failte ar ais!* Many thanks for your completed application form and supplementary information. You are a busy committee and the traditional application form does not have the space to allow you to fully describe your projects. Please consider availing of the electronic version of the form as this will enhance the presentation and give you greater freedom to expand on your endeavours. It is recommended that you prepare a three-year plan. Such a plan would identify a vision for your town for the next three-year period. It should be ambitious but realistic. Then look at the various headings of the contest and decide what actions need to be completed under each one to help you achieve your vision. Larger tasks could be broken down into manageable projects. Seek to develop alliances and involve as many people and outside agencies as possible. Update the plan at the end of the year to show what has been done but do not be tempted to rewrite it. Acknowledge those areas where you have been less successful and learn from the experience. Consult the TidyTowns Handbook for much useful information and guidance is contained. It is great to read that there is a high level of awareness in the town about the TidyTowns and the work you do. Be sure to take full advantage of this in trying to attract new volunteers and committee members. You have a wonderful range of festivals throughout the year and not just confined to the summer.

### The Built Environment:

Well done to all those premises owners who have repainted or made enhancements since last year. Their contribution is most valued. In the three-year plan, which you will hopefully be preparing, be sure to list all those properties that are unused or derelict. It may take time to deal with each one of them but perseverance will be rewarded. Main Street looks very well and is very much enhanced by the lack of overhead wires and attractive lampposts. Lehane's garage is busy and he has a wonderful old traditional shop front. Perhaps he could be persuaded to

paint it, what an enhancement this would be! The square is a strong feature in the historic town layout and is unusually compact. Its appearance varies. The Blackwater house is in need of urgent attention and protrusions at the Texaco garage look poor. Gum has degraded the cobblestones. On the plus side the Heritage signage is clear and clean, seating is in good order and the bust of Michael Kavanagh is a strong feature. The beautiful roses are a fantastic addition. Barron's bakery and coffee house deserves a special mention for its outstanding presentation. This area has huge potential but unfortunately falls short. Street names are conspicuously lacking and the bilingual system for attractive nameplates should be explored. The derelict building on the Waterford Road in a prominent position is another in urgent need of remedial action. The 'childcare facility' is a beautifully presented building (even if the name conjures images of detention!). The Button bar is colourful and the seating was enjoyed! The Church of Ireland occupies a very prominent location and is neatly displayed. SuperValu looks well with what appears to be a new coat of paint, degraded only by giant photos of cheese that for some reason needed to fill whole windows.

### **Landscaping:**

Hanging baskets were admired along Main Street. Very attractive large planters are eye-catching along the main road near the church. Planting of small annuals at the base of hedging is lost behind parked cars and rather inconspicuous. Planters in a wooden container look really well on the roadside (is this the bacon factory wall?), Good work here! Your fantastic planting displays were admired near the school, and right along the road to the grotto.

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

Appreciating your local wildlife resources is vital in order to achieve under this category. In this regard researching and raising awareness is more important than 'doing' at the early stages. Biodiversity is under threat globally and sadly Ireland is a part of this trend. Learn why this is important and discover of there are areas designated for conservation close to you at [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie) or [www.noticenature.ie](http://www.noticenature.ie). Habitats of value include specimen trees, hedgerows, treelines, stream, woodlands and wetlands. Some or all of these are likely to be present in your town and they should be mapped. Learn how their quality can be enhanced through careful management. Try to list the plants and animals to be found there and recognise their significance (native, protected, or alien invasive?). This information can be fun to gather and can involve the school or other interested parties. Raise awareness through holding events such as hedgerow walks or bat walks. Contact the Irish Wildlife Trust Waterford branch or the National Parks and Wildlife Service Ranger who might be able to help you arrange this. You could hold an event to coincide with Heritage Week at the end of August. It is great to see that you are liaising with Coillte to educate schoolchildren to value our biodiversity and our natural heritage. The Blackwater is a special area of conservation and so one of Ireland's most important conservation areas. Contact your NPWS Ranger to learn more about this significant designation. The view of the geographically significant bend in the Blackwater is magnificent with the two arched bridges. A sunken fishing boat detracts however while there is an infestation of Japanese knotweed and the slipway is also badly littered.

### **Litter Control:**

Do you take part in the National Spring Clean? This is a wonderful initiative run by An Taisce, to motivate communities in April. It can be a fun day as well as getting valuable work done. How frequently are litter patrols done as part of your rota? How successful is this? Do you have any litter blackspots or problem times of the week? Any issues should be discussed here. Cigarette ends are an issue outside pubs and have caught in the spaces between paving flags. The bring bank and surrounds were mostly clean but there was unfortunately some dumping of cans and boxes. An abandoned site and empty poles means the seat is unlikely to be sat on.

Generally litter control was good in well used areas but additional attention needs to be paid to less frequented corners.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

This category is about tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. It is a global and a local problem. To save the Earth we need to move quickly to a zero waste society. Your town can play its part by first looking at the volume of waste that is generated. Contact your waste contractors who can help with this. Try to find out what is being thrown away and armed with this information you can start to think about how waste can be reduced. Examine the waste pyramid and note the recycling is only the forth most preferred option after avoidance, reducing and re-using. One third of our waste is organic in nature – does your town have a brown bin collection? If not try to promote home composting by organising workshops and advertising suppliers of compost bins. One third of our food is thrown out! Give people tips through your communication channels on wise shopping, how to store food, and how to cook with leftovers. Other waste minimisation projects might include working with retailers to cut down on packaging, reminding people to re-use shopping bags, discouraging junk mail, encouraging the

re-use of water bottles and coffee mugs at school and at work. Best of luck to the school on its green flag application. This is a most valuable project as it has the potential, not only to transform the environmental impact of the school, but the community at large.

**Tidiness:**

Traffic cones outside Kavanagh Hall detract from the exceptional planted features at the entrance, perhaps an alternative could be explored. The town was generally very tidy and this adjudicator found no evidence of the sewerage scheme that seemed to have been so disruptive.

**Residential Areas:**

Screening of an abandoned estate near the Railway bar is urgently needed. The terrace redbrick houses on the Waterford Road are beautiful features, urban in design, and generally well presented. And a nice estate of two-storey houses near the river has no name while abandoned vehicles and an upturned traffic cone embedded in the path created a poor impression in this location. A small estate across from Buttons bar also has no name.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Your plan to screen the bacon factory wall is most worthwhile, this area was not marked on your map. The approach from Lismore is very well maintained and the attractive welcome sign was admired. The renovation of the milestone is excellent and complements very well a similar project undertaken in Lismore. Street services are variable with some areas in particular need of attention, for example at Fawly's lounge. Footpaths are unconnected to one another and the pedestrian is frequently deposited in a drain-way! The grotto is a basically attractive feature and the lovely flowers have already been commented upon. The cobbles need extensive weeding and the plaques need to be cleaned to restoring it to its former glory.

**General Impression:**

Cappaquin TidyTowns group is to be commended for the wonderful work that has been put into maintaining the town's appearance in recent years. You are to be particularly congratulated for the beautiful floral displays this year. It is hoped that we would see a three-year plan in 2012 along with some progress on a project of significance, for example derelict buildings.