

Tidy Towns Competition 2011

Adjudication Report

Centre: Clonroche			Ref: Ref: 124
County: Wexford			Mark: 275
Category: B			Date(s): 30/06/
	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded	Mark
		2010	2011
Overall Development Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	50	33	33
Landscaping	50	42	43
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31	31
Litter Control	50	34	34
Waste Minimisation	20	7	5
Tidiness	30	20	21
Residential Areas	40	25	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36	36
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	274	275

Overall Development Approach:

Clonroche is most welcome to the 2011 Tidy Towns competition - failte a ais! Many thanks for your application form, development plan and annotated map. Well done on the continued high level of participation that you enjoy. Let's hope you can maintain this and even bring in new blood into the future. Your communication is clearly based on personal contacts and this is good. Your new Facebook page is an excellent tool for promoting your work and do make sure you keep this regularly updated. Take lots of photos and post them here. How many 'fans' do you have? You may even be able to attract new recruits using this method. Please consider typing your application form as this would make it easier to read and would give you more space to describe your projects. Your three-year plan is slim but contains some good actions. Do update this year-on-year to take off those actions that are completed and do not shy away from acknowledging more stubborn issues, this is where valuable lessons can be learnt. Your map is clear but using colour coding or highlighter would make your annotations stand out more. Consider the use of photos in your application, especially 'before and after' shots as these can communicate very effectively the impact of a particular project. Overall you seem to have a good grasp of the organisational side of the Tidy Towns contest and this will serve you very well as a platform on which to build continued success.

The Built Environment:

Derelict buildings are a problem faced by every town in Ireland and it is great to see you addressing this issue head on. Wexford County Council will have special powers in this regard do consult them on how to proceed. The Cloch Bin is wonderfully adorned with hanging baskets that stand out against the clean whitewashed walls. Its gable wall is tastefully and traditionally painted. The nearby Tober is an interesting installation and must look well when lit. Its walls are clean and well presented. The Greene's shop is very well kept however, it is accurate that (as mentioned in last year's report) its frontage creates an overly longitudinal effect. Missing letters also needed to be replaced. The Clonroche pharmacy looks well and bins along main street are clean.

and of good quality. The Boro Inn needs a facelift! It would be great to see its Guinness murals repainted. The Community Centre is very bare. Larger plants are needed in these tubs in order to have any impact but a mural or some other screening would do wonders. Gala was very clean and well presented. It's summer flowers were admired. Green's footwear shop has a very well painted facade, while the post office opposite is simple but beautifully presented. Tector's funeral home is superbly presented and a big hand to the proprietors for the effort gone into this. The school looks very well and it was great to see its green flag flying proudly.

Landscaping:

It is hoped that when you are filling gaps in hedging and tree lines that you are sensitive to the needs of wildlife and planting only native species. The lovely young lime trees were admired on Main Street and these are an excellent feature for adding year-round colour and texture. Displays of colourful annual plants were admired. The display of roses and other plants in the private garden between the two pubs creates a wonderful impact. The Millennium Park is a fantastic feature and was being used on adjudication day! The landscaping is most suitable with the balance of trees and summer colour. Seats were in good order and the grass was well trimmed. Good work! The beautiful old ash tree with simple seating added at its base a fantastic feature. Across the road from the school there is no need for flower planting at the base of the tall beech trees as they should be allowed 'stand-alone'.

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 where there are areas designated for conservation close to you at www.npws.ie or 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 Wexford Naturalists Field Club 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. Do give more detail on the 'biodiversity pledge'- this sounds original and most intriguing! Your three-year plan states that Johns Lane requires 'constant attention' - please elaborate - what kind of maintenance is needed here? It is hoped that any work here is sensitive to wildlife and does not involve spraying or planting of non-native species. John's Lane is a wonderfully quiet spot that abounds with nature. Less is definitely more here to allow the natural vegetation to fully express itself. Dumping of grass cuttings near the entrance should be discouraged as this damages native flora. The lovely display board was admired here.

Litter Control:

Well done on participating in the National Spring Clean! Some photos would be great to see what you achieved. Did many people turn out? How much rubbish did you collect? In terms of your routine patrols how often do these occur? Do elaborate on how you communicate this message to schools and the wider community. The Main Street was generally litter free although a number of stray items was noted. Dog fouling was a minor problem. The bring bank was mostly clean and receptacles were well presented. Some litter was in evidence at the entrance to the Millennium Park.

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 fourth 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. Please give more detail and your participation in the green homes project. What is required of you here and how will it help to reduce waste? It is good to read that you are planning a waste minimisation workshop.

Tidiness:

It is great to read that you have given consideration to the specific suggestions in last year's report. It is important that you can take these independent views on board. The town is generally very tidy in appearance. It would be great to see remaining overhead wires done away with to complete the work that has already been done. Fly posting is not a problem while signage is good quality. There does not appear to be too many vacant poles. Painting the gates at Sean Flood's would be a great enhancement here.

Residential Areas:

Canon Murphy Park is a beautifully maintained estate of houses on the New Ross side of town. The front boundary landscaping is excellent here, especially the tall trees. The colourful flowers under the name plates create a wonderful sight but the letters need to be repainted. On the

main road the small flowers are dwarfed by the location and something more substantial is needed here for greater impact. The Woodlands estate looks great and top marks for preserving the lovely row of original hedgerow. This was full of wild flowers including the fragrant honeysuckle. It would be a nice project to paint boundary walls a uniform colour.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

This adjudicator found the approach road from Enniscorthy to be excessively cluttered with low quality signage and cheap hoarding and this created a poor first impression. The natural field boundaries of this countryside are hedgerows and it would be great to see these replanted along the long stretches of road where there are only bare wooden post fences. The surfacing was good however and the welcome sign was admired. Similarly bare fences were noted on the Adamstown approach. Effective screening with ivy of a concrete wall on the Cloughban approach was admired. Further out it was great to see the old stone wall being preserved - how about painting the nearby field gate to complete the picture? Most pub car parks are a dumping ground but the Clogh Bón deserves special praise for the wonderful appearance of the beer garden!

General Impression:

Well done Clonroche TidyTowns for the wonderful standard of presentation that was on show. Your hard work is really paying off. A low level of letter did stand out so perhaps additional measures are needed here. You are not in the contest long but you are already making great headway. Best of luck and keep up the good work