

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bunclody** Ref: **137**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **254**
Category: **C** Date(s): **21/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	50	38	38
Landscaping	50	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19	19
Litter Control	50	30	30
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	8	8
Tidiness	30	17	17
Residential Areas	40	29	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	253	254

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Bunclody Tidy Towns Association to the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition 2013. Your entry is very much appreciated. Thank you for your entry form and map, 3-5 year plan and photos. Your population category is "small town C" (1,001 to 2,500). Your 15 member committee is a good size for a town of your population and is an indication of the status of your association in the community. Monthly meetings seem appropriate with good turn outs for your clean ups. Supervalu Bunclody is your main sponsor, with support also from Wexford Co. Co., FAS and various businesses. Your communication channels are appropriate. Please enclose a copy of the newsletter with next year's entry. It will be returned to you. Contact with your schools is productive. Your comments about the value of the Tidy Towns competition to your community are well made. If you feel that you do not have enough space in the entry form, please add additional pages. This adjudicator noted that last year's adjudicator asked for a smaller map. Unlike last year's adjudicator this one does not need a map while driving! A larger map, please, to include the cemetery, fire station, Newtownbarry House and other outlying attractions.

The Built Environment:

Approaching from Ryland Road the first public building encountered is the fire station. As would be expected it is modern, looks well and is clean and tidy. On Ryland Street one immediately notices the Bank of Ireland building (1835) which looks very well, being newly painted. Well done Bunclody Tidy Towns Association. The R.C. Church of the Most Holy Trinity is an impressive, modern building with a splendid bell tower half covered by climbing ivy. It is surrounded by well maintained, kerbed grassed areas, trees and shrubs. Large planters with trees stand in front of the church. Wall newly painted. St Mary's Church of Ireland (1775) is an imposing building with a majestic spire. It has an attractive old stone wall as its boundary and equally attractive old stone walls in the graveyard. All presented impeccably. Bunclody GAA Park is clean, tidy and the grassed areas are well maintained. Gravel surface in car parks. St Aiden's Hall 1916 is an attractive building in very good condition. Nice stonework/brickwork. Bunclody Vocational College is well presented. Front wall and college building well painted. Sports area well maintained – football, tennis, and basketball. Extensive railings clean and well painted. Mature and young trees. All neat and tidy.

Old shop front on Irish Street caught the eye. It is a tackle shop and the name on the façade is E. O'Comain in gold letters while a sign on a pole says "Kate's Tack Shop". It is nice to see the inscription on the 1798 plaque in both Irish and English with the Irish in old style lettering. Newtownbarry House and Gardens have an impressive 4 pillared entrance to a tree-lined avenue. The public toilets at the Market Square are well presented. In your 3-5

year plan you mention the need to upgrade this building? Public library is in a modern building – on its ground floor, and not in a dedicated building. Carrigduff National School (in Carlow?) has 1 Green Flag. A single storey building, it is well presented. Path to front door is flanked on each side by a bed of shrubs, flowers, trees. School name stone in a bed. Stone seating. Extensive grassed areas. Well maintained. Vegetable patch. Hanging baskets/planters at entrance door. A variety of shrubs along boundary wall. Outdoor swimming pool and children's playground, tennis courts. Lots of litter. Untidy. Picnic tables/benches at pool sound, painted. Piles of rubble behind pool. Area neglected. Overall - sad.

Garda Station looks well, grass/shrubs well maintained. Two hanging baskets add colour. Our Lady of Lourdes National School has 3 Green Flags. Well presented. Single storey and semi-permanent temporary structures. Extensive grounds, trees/shrubs. Car park clean. The 2 derelict buildings were noted. Also noted in your entry form is your intention to carry out painting to reduce their impact. Other tidy towns groups have organised collections of unwanted paint from residents and others and have used that to paint derelict buildings, doors, windows, etc.

Landscaping:

Visitors arriving into Bunclody on the Ryland Road would not expect to be greeted by the attractive picnic area which awaits them. It is delightful and hints that there are greater delights ahead. The painting is fresh, the colours vibrant. Bollards and chains spotless. Shrubs, flowers, mature trees. Very unexpected. Your map calls it the Market Square garden. Elsewhere it is referred to as the fairgreen. Whichever, it is very attractive. The planting has been done with great taste and is well maintained. In addition to being a lovely place to relax it is also a place to get information. The Mount Leinster Heritage Drive information board is clean, legible and informative. The Bunclody town map is also displayed and was put to good use. Lamp posts are clean and one has a sign "Please keep our town tidy". The sculpture is attractive and the Bunclody stone makes its own statement. Out of character in this lovely park is an advertising board on a metal pole, both in need of cleaning. It advertises a nearby retail food outlet and in the opinion of this adjudicator such advertising has no place in a public park.

The centre piece of Main Street is unique in this adjudicator's experience. A linear amenity/attraction. Set into the centre of Main Street this long water feature is flanked on one side by a long row of mature trees which shade nicely painted seats, flower beds and a sculpture of gold balls and leaves. The other side has distinctive planters with flowers. Bunclody Golf Club features prominently in your 3-5 year plan. On adjudication day the course looks splendid and this adjudicator had a hard time suppressing the desire to play golf instead of adjudicating. Planting/flower containers at various locations in the town noted e.g. St Mary's Villas, roundabout, approach roads, Church Road, etc.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It was noted that students in the Vocational College made bird boxes which were erected at various locations around the town. Those on the Mall and square seen. The duck pond on the golf course had resident ducks. This is a category where Bunclody Tidy Towns Association can, and should, score more marks. The landscape around Bunclody is very well wooded and also has lush, pastoral areas. Wildlife will be plentiful in this countryside. A wildlife survey would help to establish species and habitats and could be done in partnership with, say, the national school, which already has 3 Green Flags. Bird boxes are important but they need to be monitored to determine usage and to be cleaned out after use.

Litter Control:

As mentioned elsewhere in this report there was a lot of litter in the swimming pool area. Your large anti-litter signs on approach to the town were noted as was the sign in the Market Square Park. Your clean-ups and litter patrols are effective because streets and estates were almost litter free on adjudication day. Well done to all involved.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

Some tidy towns groups find this category challenging. Recycling is important and an increasing number of supermarkets offer recycling facilities for batteries, print cartridges, etc. However, there are higher priorities and these are set out in the illustration in this category in the entry form. The first task listed in the entry form for tidy towns groups is "Promotion of best practise in waste and resource management". This can be done using the local newsletter. Useful web sites include www.stopfoodwaste.ie and www.greenhomes.ie – an initiative of the Environmental Protection Agency and An Taisce. The school with its 3 Green Flags is already applying the principles of this category.

Tidiness:

Your weed control efforts are effective as no weeds were noted on the streets of the town. The anti-dog letter signs are commended. The swimming pool area is neglected and needs to be tidied. Traffic was flowing well, except for some hesitancy at the roundabout. Bunclody is best seen on foot and the weather on adjudication day was perfect for that. There was no graffiti evident.

Residential Areas:

Your planting strategy for the estates is to be commended – shrubs for year round effect and flowers for summer colour. Entrances looked well and some name signs would further enhance them. It would be invidious for this

adjudicator to compare one with another. Streets of mature, terraced residences, most well-presented, point to a community that takes pride in its place. St Brigid's Terrace/Oliver Plunckett Park – mature neighbourhood with extensive green areas, nice landscaping, lots of trees, clean, white bollards. Village pump in brick alcove. Flower bed at entrance. St Mary's Villas also a mature neighbourhood. Attractive, dry stone wall and raised bed with shrubs. Two clean, sound seats. Raised bed with 3 flower containers on gravel. There are fine residences on approach roads.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach from Enniscorthy gives a good first impression. However, part of a wall has collapsed on to the footpath just past the town name sign. You enclosed a photo of repairs being carried out on another breach. On the approach from Carlow the verge seems to have been dug up and a footpath takes over into the town. Other approaches give a good first impression. The bridge over the Slaney wears its years very well. It is in good condition.

General Impression:

Your comments about the bottle bank are noted. What you propose would enhance the area. Unfortunately, your adjudicator was not able to avail of your map of the walk to the turf cutter's hut as time did not allow it. Wind turbines tend to dominate the skyline when seen from some parts of the town. They have no adverse impact on your marks. We look forward to receiving Bunclody Tidy Towns Associations entry in the Supervalu Tidy Towns competition in 2014.