

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DRIMOLEAGUE**
County : **CORK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	24
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	22	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	25	26
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	15	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	18
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	164	156

Drimoleague, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The increased support given by the local community, as described in your answers to the questionnaire, is most encouraging. It is very good to learn that you have received a grant under the Urban & Rural Development Scheme, and this will undoubtedly be put to good use. Your sponsorship of FAS workers is admirable. The 3 Year Development Plan identifies priorities, but the enclosed form does not show how the work is to be allocated or phased year-by-year. Thank you for your very clear map.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Important buildings such as the R.C. Church (except for the gates, which still need painting), the Garda Station and Reinhardt's Mill were very well presented, as last year - so too was the Church of Ireland, but it is probably situated outside the competition area. A derelict building has been taken in hand, but there is an obtrusively rusty corrugated iron roof which gives a poor impression entering the town from the eastern side. Business premises were in general very well presented; as well as those proposed for consideration in the shopfront awards, photographs were taken of Crowley's Pharmacy. The Centra shop was being painted on adjudication day and should look very well. Those premises which do not have plastic or mass-produced signs, which do not have an abundance of window stickers, and where the upper floors and roof are also in good condition, have the best chance in the Shopfront Awards.

LANDSCAPING

Drimoleague is strong on formal planting of flowers, in beds, tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes, all of which add brightness and colour, and a sense of caring. Extensive tree planting was also extremely favourably noted. The lay-by on the Bandon road is most attractive - it is very good to see roses so well tended, as well as the more usual herbaceous flowers and annuals elsewhere.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The opening up of the coniferous woodland by the church has been well worthwhile. The river may have been cleaned, but litter (see below) remains a problem. Nonetheless, the course of the river, and its relationship to town and country, seems the ideal inspiration for a signposted walk, where local flora and fauna can be identified on illustrated boards as has been done successfully in other centres; this could be an extension of your excellent plans for the Railway Yard area. The section on Wildlife in the Tidy Towns booklet may be helpful, as well as the information sheet from Conservation Volunteers of Ireland.

LITTER CONTROL

There was little disposable litter on the streets on adjudication day. However, over sixty pieces of litter were seen in the short shallow

section of the river between the main street and car park.

TIDINESS

Weeds were generally at a minimum too. There are not too many obtrusive projecting signs. You do not propose the removal of overhead wires and poles in your Development Plan, but this expensive yet ultimately highly beneficial project is something which might be investigated later - it has transformed the appearance of several town centres.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Timoleague is also strong on well kept houses, old and new. A charmingly painted terrace was admired at High Street, and individual homes in outlying areas, particularly on the Skibbereen road, were very favourably noted.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Surfaces are generally good, and paving is also very good in some areas. The church car park is extremely well looked after, but there was weed growth in parts of the town centre car park. Stone wall building is excellent, and new stone steps leading from the Church hill to the Railway Yard are exemplary. The approach road from the Bandon side is the most impressive. Entries and back areas vary from the first class entrance to the GAA Park to an unattractive yard near the Methodist church.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Timoleague has come on gradually over the past few years. Now that improvement needs have been systematically listed, progress will undoubtedly be accelerated. It is now possible to form a very positive opinion of the town.