

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **INCHIGEELA**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	25
The Built Environment	40	18	18
Landscaping	40	25	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	13
Litter Control	40	20	20
Tidiness	20	8	8
Residential Areas	30	16	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	18
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	152	145

Inchigeela, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

From reading the answers to the questionnaire, it would appear that there is now a greater impetus behind the work of this Committee, and the improvements proposed are greatly looked forward to. Not a great deal seems to have been achieved since last year's competition, but it is clear that current plans will shortly make their mark. Please mark all sites on your map where development has taken place and name the roads.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, the church is very well maintained; its design is interesting and unusual. If the disused church on the Macroom road is the proposed headquarters for the Summer School, this would be a very worthwhile initiative; the church tower is an important architectural landmark, and the building at present is a depressing rather than a picturesque ruin. It is also depressing on arrival from the Ballingearry side to be confronted by two conspicuous derelict buildings on the left, and a not altogether satisfactory premises on the right. The derelict houses should, if possible, be restored as dwellings in the fullness of time, rather than demolished, as they are of good traditional design and stone built - easy to say of course, when funds are not plentiful.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping at the Dunmanway junction was well maintained, as usual, as was the planting almost opposite the entrance to the Island Park. There is a big challenge to landscape the road to the GAA Park, clearing the stream and planting native shrubs and wild flowers; this scheme could eventually encompass the little stone building at the junction of the main street which has been the subject of adverse comment in the past. Many attractive floral displays were favourably noted, especially the many tubs at O'Donovan's.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is good to read of the plans for a conservation project. There are notes in the Tidy Towns booklet which may be of use in regard to this or other wildlife projects. Walks to include such sites as the Mass Rock and the Standing Stone might be signposted. The Island Park was looking superb at the time of adjudication; it now seems more visible from the bridge, and the view of the bridge from the island is wonderfully picturesque. A pity that poisoning was used to eradicate weeds, as it leaves a brown mark which is almost as unsightly as the weeds themselves. The variety of trees, the waterlilies, the good fencing, the well-kept lawns, all contribute to a wonderfully attractive and peaceful scene. Perhaps passers-by are not as aware of this amenity as they might be.

LITTER CONTROL

The village was comparatively litter free, except for a light scattering all along the streamside wall towards the bridge.

TIDINESS

It is difficult to keep a tidy village when there is so much dereliction. Kerbside weed was also a problem on adjudication day in a number of areas, such as on the Dunmanway road near the parochial Hall. Builders' materials seemed to have been abandoned some time ago in one or two spots. Where verges had been trimmed on the bye-road to the south, hay had been left lying. These are not major blemishes, but they combine to give a poor impression.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the older houses are well looked after. Note should be taken of a comment by last year's adjudicator about boundary walls. The terrace houses on the Macroom road are well painted, but here too not all boundary walls are of the standard of the houses. Two houses with superb gardens caught the eye - one on the left as you arrive from the bye-road to the south, and one on the south downstream side of the bridge.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces are good, and the approach roads are well kept. Whitewashing of the long wall opposite the Parochial Hall looks well, but should be extended as far as the bridge for the effect to be completed.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A pleasant and interesting village with a delightful riverside park. A number of problems will have to be overcome before Inchigeela can take the place which it will surely deserve once the plans described by the secretary are implemented.