

Tidy Towns 1997

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **MACROOM**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	35
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	31	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	21
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>204</b>

## **Macroom, Co. Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Macroom is developing in a laudably systematic way while taking sympathetic account of traditional townscape and topographical features. This adjudicator had not been in the town for three years, and the improvements - which may seem slow to those involved - are remarkable. On a negative note, heavy traffic is pervasive, even in late evening, and the town centre so congested that it is difficult to appreciate its finer qualities. Projects as set out in your entry form and on your map - all the numbered locations were visited - are, as always, impressive. Please mark street and estate names on your map, and please encourage the local authority to provide name plates in the proper places.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The principal public buildings have been praised in the past and continue to be well presented. It is very good to learn that steps are being taken to rehabilitate the Church of Ireland (weed growth was seen on the top of the tower) an important architectural landmark, as is the Castle tower across the street which might be restored in the fullness of time. Positive comments are rarely made about industrial/commercial buildings: it is well worth noting Looney's, Willich, Aquatico, Lynch's Bakery, Lee Valley Tyres and the ESB. The most interesting industrial building, however, is Bealic Mill: the restoration programme is of the highest order, and all participating bodies are to be congratulated on their imaginative initiative. When completed, it will undoubtedly become a prime visitor attraction. (It would be inadvisably premature to enter this building for an award before the work is completed). Shopfronts suggested for awards were photographed, as well as some others which appealed. The pebble-dashing of Colaiste Mac Aodhagain needs freshening up with paint.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The tree-planting programme in a number of areas, such as in the Castle Demesne and at the Glen Park housing estate, is impressive. Planting of annuals brightens up many corners and roadsides, such as at the entry to the town from Cork. Window boxes and hanging baskets on both public and private property were admirable. Landscaping already completed at Bealic Mill is exemplary.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The riverside upstream and downstream of Peadar O Laoire Bridge showed sensitive husbandry. The picnic area by O Riadas's, the Pitch and Putt course and the avenue leading to the Golf Course were as well tended as we have come to expect, though grass should be removed immediately after cutting. Environmental work was in progress at the time of adjudication near the Golf Club, and the result will be looked forward to. The wildflower meadow is a welcome innovation - at the time of

adjudication the air was sweet with the scent of clover.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The positive remarks made last year may be repeated. Congratulations.

## **TIDINESS**

There is still a considerable amount of untidy signage in the town centre, and unco-ordinated signage is beginning to proliferate on the main approaches: this is not a problem yet, but it could replicate problems encountered in other tourist centres. It was surprising to see a rusty corrugated iron roof in the Castle precinct.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Older town houses are in general very well kept; an excellent example is the terrace next to O' Riada's. It is good to see new infill housing of appropriate proportions adjacent, and three lovely terrace houses in pastel shades opposite. In Masseytown, the small estate near the Sports Ground is well maintained, the houses at O'Connor Park are beautifully painted but in spite of well-planted surroundings, the central tarmac area is rather bleak in comparison. An attractively restored Gothic lodge was seen nearby. The unnamed hilltop houses overlooking the Castle are notable for their superb situation; incidences of dereliction in this neighbourhood hardly need to be pointed out to this Committee. Glen Park (see above) is obviously a source of pride to its residents. The series of estates to the north of the main street are well kept, and vary interestingly; the rigorous neatness of Daniel Corkery Place would be helped by a line of trees, if this can be achieved in the space available; the tree-lined link from here to Castle Court estate is attractive, and Castle Court is wonderfully spacious and traffic-free. Sally Gardens and Oakwood are promising estates in the course of development; initial tree planting was favourably noted at the former.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Work was in progress on the Cork approach, where a new sidewalk was also being provided. Others were as well tended without over-zealous hedgecutting, though there was much kerbside weed on the Millstreet road. Paving, street furniture and lighting are especially good in the town centre. Car parks were clean and tidy beside the bridge on the Masseytown corner, near the Old Triangle, near the Bus Depot, and adjacent to Neville's, but there was much weed in the car park at the back of SuperValu. Backs of older houses, e.g. as seen from some car parks, need attention. Some derelict sites have been referred to above; those which seem to give most concern in the Masseytown area appear to be in the process of improvement. The colourful painting of a series of old garage doors here shows how an imaginative idea can help tremendously. Post-and-wire fencing at the Sports Ground and before an old terrace (name?) above the Castle needs replacement; durable wooden fencing, hedges or, ideally, stone walls would help a great deal. As it is, stone walls on the hill (name?) leading to the Sports Ground in Masseytown

are first class.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

A dignified and interesting town, improving rapidly. A number of unkept or derelict sites obviously need attention, and heavy traffic is a disability. However, the overall feeling is engagingly vibrant.

### **SECOND ADJUDICATION (7/8/97)**

The market town of Macroom is an attractive and well maintained one which was well presented on adjudication day. The buildings were generally very fresh and colourful. Macroom has a heritage of fine stone buildings including its castle and market house. The grotto looked well with its simple floral displays. The colourful and overflowing hanging baskets on stands marching down Main Street looked cheerful, as did the hanging baskets to Spar which were admired. Browne's Bar was very fresh in strong mustard colour. In relation to gables, they should not be neglected when considering presentation as they are quite prominent as buildings step up and down along the length of the street. Hoardings should also be discouraged. Curved canopies should be discouraged and replaced with traditional fabric awnings. The town generally looked very neat and ordered on adjudication day with well swept streets.