

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TIMOLEAGUE**
County : **CORK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	29	30
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	22
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	200	199

Timoleague, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is clear that the Association is very firmly based in its locality and maintains strong contacts with official outside organisations. Most centres have now compiled a 3-5 year Development Plan and the opinion is that the exercise has helped them to identify future needs and schedule individual projects over a stated period; it would be well worth the Associations while to follow suit. Thank you for your clearly drawn map. (In future years please mark and name all points which should be specially examined - for example, your map this year omits the impressive Court House renovation: indeed it would be hard to miss it in the street, but there could be less conspicuous developments which might be overlooked).

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The two Churches and their environs are very well maintained. The Sports Centre is a fine addition to the recreational life of the village. It is needless to repeat that the Friary makes a superb architectural centrepiece; aspects of the site will be referred to less positively below. The rehabilitation of the 1700 Court House and its conversion as a language school is a particularly impressive project, both architecturally and culturally. The shopfronts mentioned in the questionnaire will be considered for the awards in the suggested categories - except Grainnes which will be entered as a Traditional (not an Irish Language) Shop Front because there is no final S in Irish.

LANDSCAPING

The amenity walk, and the planting of a large number of trees, is a most imaginative project; if well tended, the trees will make a huge difference in a surprisingly few years. The siting of picnic tables at the curve of the old railway enhances this scheme considerably. As always, the Castle Gardens are beautifully maintained. The blend of fine old limes, beeches and sycamores, and yews in the adjacent churchyard, with the more recent planting, is most successful. Flowers here and there in boxes and baskets punctuate the townscape very prettily. A viewing point might be established at Chapel Avenue as an item in your long-term Plan - the panorama over village, friary and estuary is wonderful and deserves to be more fully appreciated. There is an excellent opportunity for landscaping at the new Sports Centre.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The suggestions made by last years adjudicator in regard to the estuary should be seriously considered. The area of the old railway line mentioned above will have ready-made wildlife opportunities.

LITTER CONTROL

There was no appreciable litter in the streets, but there was a considerable amount within the Friary - plastic bags and wrappers, some of which appeared to have been there for some time, and this

is reprehensible. Provision of more litter bins in this national monument might induce visitors to be more careful. There was also quite an amount of litter opposite the Texaco garage.

TIDINESS

It is very difficult to keep an area such as the interior of the Friary tidy because of the random nature of ancient and modern graves, but a better attempt at weed-cutting might be expected. The post-and-wire fence opposite the Texaco garage is untidy and is partly responsible for the poor impression given at that end of the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Village centre houses and terraces are charming, and beautifully painted. The estate at the top of Chapel Hill is well presented, and it looked as if more houses were about to be built in this superb location for some lucky new residents. A number of single houses with pleasant gardens were seen.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads vary from the well-kept Courtmacsherry, Bandon and Kilbrittain roads, to the not-so-well-kept road from Dunworley. Surfaces and paving are good. Old and new stone walls are admirable throughout, but two walls need attention: the broken wall opposite the cemetery on Wood Road, and (in the long-term) the removal of the unpleasant concrete block capping to the fine stone wall which bounds the sea side of the Friary. The Friary car park was immaculate on adjudication day - contrasting with the untidy back-road to Abbey Street. Mill Hill suffers from the same kind of neglect- see notes above on the area opposite the Texaco garage.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

While some ill-favoured areas such as those mentioned at the end of the previous paragraph need thought and attention, this is nonetheless an incomparably picturesque village where impressive environmental projects are successfully in progress.