

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **COBH**
County : **CORK**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	34
The Built Environment	40	33	31
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	25	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	214	204

Cobh, County Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

As evidenced from the comprehensive support material submitted with the entry, the Cobh Tidy Towns Committee is working in line with the five year plan, which has been drawn up for Tidy Towns activities in the town. In the plan, it is stated that "... there is no reason why Cobh cannot win the Tidy Towns Competition...", this indeed represents a very positive approach and the Committee and the entire community should work towards this objective. It is very encouraging that in working towards this objective, the Committee has the support of the local Urban District Council, the County Council and other important relevant bodies, which are associated with the town's development. As acknowledged in one of your submissions, the town has been making steady progress in the Competition over recent years and the Committee certainly should not be discouraged by the fact that the town "...still remains significantly below the overall winners..." The fact is, every centre is different, though there are many similar problems, and in your case, you are working towards a wide ranging plan for the future of the town. The Committee and the town should continue with these very commendable efforts which, if pursued for the future, will improve the town's position in the Competition significantly.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Like many other towns and villages throughout the country at the present time, there is quite considerable building work taking place in the town at present. This development relates to various commercial activities etc. and it is important, particularly for a town like Cobh, that such development is carried out and completed satisfactorily from every point of view. The town is fortunate in having a wide variety of old buildings, ranging from church buildings to various commercial buildings etc. In terms of buildings, the Cathedral is a priceless asset for the entire community and should be treasured by all members of the community. Public buildings such as the Post Office and Garda Station were well presented. School buildings such as Rushbrooke Convent National School, Colaiste Muire Secondary School and Scoil Iosaef Naomha were all neatly presented. It is hoped that when complete, the new retail development at Pearse Square will integrate with this fine old Square. The standard of business and commercial premises throughout the town was good.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping aspect of your programme is to be welcomed and this overall should have an enhancing effect

on the town and its environs. The tree planting in many residential areas of the town including in the vicinity of the new Rushbrooke Manor residential development, Russell Heights and that which has been carried out in the Bishop St. area in the park has a positive aspect for all these areas. The large green area across from the new cemetery was very well maintained and tree planting etc. here looks well. Shrubbery and flower planting in other areas of the town such as that at the Mall/Holy Ground area was colourful and well maintained. Also the flower planting in various areas of the town added pleasant colour. The flower tubs at the new cemetery were colourful and well maintained. The flower planting near the Grotto on the Marloag road was also attractive. Flower tubs and hanging baskets are used very effectively in many areas of the town.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Residents and visitors to Cobh are fortunate to have the Cuskinny Nature Reserve in such close proximity to the town. This is an acknowledged Wildlife Reserve and having explanatory display boards dealing with the wildlife of Cuskinny Bay etc. is very appropriate. The general area at Cuskinny provides excellent habitat for wildlife and the area therefore needs to be attended to carefully. At the time of adjudication, there was quite a considerable amount of litter in the general vicinity, particularly in the car park area and in the vicinity of the explanatory boards. There did not seem to be any container for litter in this area and this would need to be rectified. At Kennedy Pier, there are display boards explaining the wildlife of the area and this is informative for both locals and visitors to the town.

LITTER CONTROL

You have rightly identified litter as a priority in your five year programme. The provision of additional litter bins and the employment of wardens is a good start. Creating an awareness of litter in a community is also important and in this regard, the "Keep Cobh Tidy" posters with a litter theme, which are on display throughout the town are very good idea. There was some litter at the time of adjudication on the Ballymore road. There was also some litter at the entrance to the old cemetery. As indicated, the valuable Cuskinny Reserve needs to be watched more carefully for litter. The litter situation in the streets and squares of the town was quite good. The initiative, which the committee has taken in relation to litter on the Cork/Cobh rail line is a good one.

TIDINESS

The organising of an annual spring clean, with a view to creating a tidier community is generally a good idea. In areas where construction works of various kinds are taking

place, it is difficult to attain any level of tidiness in these areas until such works have reached completion stage. However, areas such as Roger Casement Square and Pearse Square were quite tidy and these are busy areas of the town. The areas of the Courthouse and Library were also quite tidy. Also the area in the vicinity of the Cobh Heritage Centre was tidily maintained. The area in the vicinity of Westbourne Place was also tidy. The level of tidiness in the area of the Mall was quite good.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

It was considered that a very good standard prevailed amongst the various housing areas. It is clear that residents in the various areas take a pride in the presentation of houses, gardens and open green areas. In addition, the plan whereby the Tidy Towns Committee, the Urban District Council and the Residents Associations obviously work in co-operation is a good method of maintaining a good standard in this aspect of the Competition. Residential areas such as Brooklawn, Russell Heights and new residential areas such as Roseneath were very well presented. In many cases, individual gardens were very colourful and well cared for and open green areas were nicely trimmed and well attended to. Other residential areas such as French's Avenue, Edmund Rice Crescent and Belmont Place were all nicely presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Many roads throughout the town area were freshly resurfaced with tarmacadam and these areas were clean and tidy. A major project involving the area of the Promenade is in progress and this, when completed, should enhance this prominent area of the town considerably. A number of traffic signs and poles through the town are rusted and in need of repainting. Street furniture, signs, street names etc. are generally of a good standard and obviously form part of your five year plan. The seat immediately outside the Town Hall was in need of repainting. At the Cork approach, there is a "Welcome" and "Goodbye" sign for Cobh and this was very much in need of repainting. The Old Church Cemetery is an interesting place and the erection of the Information Plaque is informative but as acknowledged in your submission, additional work needs carrying out here. The Roger Casement monument in that area of the town is a fine feature. The approach road from Cork was quite good and the road from Ballymore was reasonably tidy as was the road and footpath to the Golf Club. The Grotto near the Cobh Museum was excellently maintained. The white washed walls in the vicinity of the Mall looked very clean and tidy. The plaques, which have been erected at the Town Hall, commemorating seafarers is an appropriate initiative. The outdoor Stations of the Cross, close to the

Cathedral, commemorating the Jubilee Year is a unique project.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This is a fine town in an exceptionally beautiful location. It is encouraging that the Tidy Towns Committee is working in conjunction with all the relevant bodies to bring about improvement to the town. This work is being carried out in a co-ordinated manner and it is hoped that a balance will be achieved between new development and old development in the town, which has a lot of character.