

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	26
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	32	30
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	17	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	19
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	184	176

Drimoleague, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator would like to thank the Committee for the comprehensive Tidy Towns 2000 Plan received with the Entry Form. This was most useful during adjudication as was the map. Your Plan for this year is an ambitious one but it is obvious to your adjudicator that you are well on your way to achieving most of your aims for this year. Well done !

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Drimoleague is a long West Cork village of great character and as you indicated in your document has a history based firmly around the railway. The adjudicator does hope that the old Station building can be acquired for future appropriate community use. It is presently in poor condition. The widening of the entrance to the Railway Yard car park is badly needed and hopefully this work will be done before too long. The restoration of the playground is an admirable objective; have you considered having public toilets provided in the Station Yard area ? The Church of Ireland building and grounds looked well as did the Catholic Church. Some minor weed growth was noted in the grounds of the latter building. The derelict house on The Terrace near the GAA property needs attention as does the derelict property noted on the Skibbereen road. Try and see if you can get permission from property owner to white-wash external walls, Windows could be boarded up and painted matt black. In this way the original derelict property can become a feature of your village. At the Garda Station the boundary wall with the street could do with re-painting. The Rynhart building is a good restoration and looks well. Throughout Dunmanway the cobble-lock pavements look well and suit the village well. Some of the properties noted in the village include The Butcher, and the Maurice Murphy premises. The mural on the gable wall of this premises is eye catching.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping and planting work carried out at the Tennis Courts looks well, and the FAS built steps from the bridge down to the Tennis Courts is a good addition to facilities here. The planting of the cliff face has also made a difference. The maintenance problems that you highlighted in regard to the river are noted, and hopefully the plan to step the fall of water will help to resolve the problem. Have you had technical advice on this? The planting on the Dunmanway approach roads looks well. The presentation of approach roads is always important and it is clear that this is understood in Drimoleague. The small open spaces on High Street that have been landscaped have matured well. This shows how even a very small space can look well if properly treated. The half

tubs with flowers near the Bantry / Skibbereen junction looked well.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Have you had any discussions at Committee level in regard to your approach to wildlife, as this is now an important part of the Tidy Towns Competition. The main point is to be aware of what wildlife is in the area, and to highlight this in an appropriate way. The area must be rich in wildlife as there are so many fine trees around the village. The Tidy Towns Handbook has a very good section of wildlife which is well worth reading.

LITTER CONTROL

Congratulations on winning the West Cork anti litter Award in 1999. On adjudication day litter control was very good, as it was on adjudication day in 1999.

TIDINESS

The recycling units at the Railway Yard were noted. On the Skibbereen road there is a large open space with an old jeep and machinery – perhaps this area can be screened from view. Coming from Bantry there is a long wall and hedge on the left-hand side. Building materials are being stored here and the gaps in the wall / hedge should be screened off. The boundary wall of the school above the Church needs to be painted, and at the Tennis Court in the Railway Yard the Basketball equipment needs to be painted also. Again at the Railway Yard the pile of concrete blocks and the pile of tar are unsightly and need to be removed urgently.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

In general residential were very well presented with a high level of building maintenance and landscaping. Good colour choices were much in evidence. However some boundary walls need attention as they can get very discoloured with passing traffic.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads were in general neatly trimmed and well presented. The Bantry road is a heavily landscaped wide road. Perhaps the long post and rail concrete fencing should be painted white or black. When banks are being trimmed do remember the needs of nesting wildlife. The key issue is to cut at the correct times of the year and do not cut banks too tightly.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

An impressive amount of work is being done by the Drimoleague Tidy Towns Committee and they deserve the support of everyone.