

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DURRUS VILLAGE**
County : **CORK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	21
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	183	181

Durrus, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator would like to thank you Committee for the note on some of the works that you have in hand. Progress in the competition will be dependent on everyone working towards the same ends. With this in mind you should prepare a "3 /5 Year rolling Tidy Towns Work Programme". This programme should have the support of the community, local groups other agencies and the County Council. It would therefore guide your Tidy Towns actions for the next three to five years. The Work Programme will detail the Tidy Towns objectives to be achieved by your committee in the years ahead. The preparation of such a Plan that is updated annually is now an important aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The village of Durrus uses strong bright colours on buildings to good effect. Indeed the use of such colours is becoming a feature of many Irish towns and villages, and it is welcomed. It is noted that you have contacted the owners of buildings where remedial works are required. As you are aware there are a few derelict buildings in the village that are problem areas. The Garda Station as a public building was excellently presented, and makes excellent use of landscaping. A general tidy up is required at the GAA public park area. Old machinery and the pile of sand should be removed, and a good weeding of the grounds is required. Avoca house is one of the properties in Durrus which is prominent because of its size and excellent use has been made of a bright colour for external painting. The mural on the end wall of Ivo's looks very well indeed, as does the whole property and the bright colour is impressive. Again at O'Suilleabhain's good use is made of colour but the overhead lighting might have been handled differently. Some buildings are in need or re-painting and presumably you have been in contact with the owners. The Post Office and Ross building occupies another key location in the village and the properties are being well maintained.

LANDSCAPING

Your planting programme carried out at the two Churches is noted and welcomed.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Sheep's Head information board is well located and carries a lot of local information. Sheep's Head now attracts a lot of visiting cyclists and this will develop further in the future.

LITTER CONTROL

On the day of adjudication litter control was good. The involvement of both Schools in your anti-litter activities is welcomed. These children will no doubt be involved in future Durrus Tidy Towns Committees. Litter was noted in the area of the Co-Op, and was quite unsightly. Indeed this area was seen to be generally untidy.

TIDINESS

The bottle bank at the Community field is located just beside an uneven part of the surface that fills with water after rainfall. Perhaps this area can be filled to prevent such problems. At the Church of Ireland the stone road boundary wall was admired, but the gates need to be re-painted. At the Graveyard grass needed to be cut and raked. Closer in to the village the area of the Garage was in need of tidying up. Garage areas are never easy to keep tidy, but perhaps you can have a look at this for next year. An abandoned green van was noted nearby. The pile of timber pallets opposite should be removed or screened.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Properties on the Ahakista approach looked really well and in many instances a high degree of landscaping is involved. However some window-sills and timber work needs attention. Some properties require gates. The low stone walls on this approach are impressive as is the excellent road surface. On the Crookhaven road some gardens are in need of attention. Very colourful attractive housing was noted on both sides of the National School. Overall private housing in Durrus is well presented, but there are some instances where further work is required. The Durrus Holiday Village complex fits well into the village, and was well presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Ahakista and Bantry approach roads provide an impressive introduction to the village ahead. However little maintenance works appear to have been done on the Crookhaven approach road. Here banks were in need of cutting.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Durrus is a popular village of character that attracts many visitors. Your main difficulty is that of derelict property and hopefully your present efforts will bring good results on this issue, before long.

