

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MINANE BRIDGE**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	--
The Built Environment	40	25	--
Landscaping	40	23	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	--
Litter Control	40	21	--
Tidiness	20	10	--
Residential Areas	30	19	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	--
General Impression	10	5	--
TOTAL MARK	300	159	--

Minane Bridge, County Cork.

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The participation of your community in the Tidy Towns Competition is very welcome. As acknowledged in your entry application, your Committee, Tracton Muintir Community Council sees involvement in the Competition as a means of getting the area tidied up. The village is located in a very pleasant rural valley and has some interesting features. In drawing up a three year plan for your Tidy Towns activities, you have identified a number of matters which need attention. It might be necessary to take these on a priority basis and such an approach may be more satisfactory in achieving results.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The buildings in and around the village are quite well maintained. The church is a fine building and is obviously prominently located in the village. The local National School, Scoil Cnoc an Manac was strikingly presented and the adjoining green area was very neatly trimmed and very well maintained. The Post Office and business premises in the village were quite well presented. The Co-op of Dairygold Ltd. was also quite well maintained. The derelict houses in the village will have to be attended to at some stage; if this problem were dealt with, it would improve the overall image of the village.

LANDSCAPING

Some landscaping work has begun around the perimeter of the car park near the church, where some trees have been planted. Additional tree and shrub planting here could be carried out – it is a focal point in the village, particularly because of its proximity to the church. Some flower tubs have been put in place in the vicinity of the church and this adds some natural colour to this area of the village. Some flower containers have also been positioned on the stone wall leading into the centre of the village. Additional landscaping could be carried out in other areas of the village and since you are at the beginning stage, it may be advisable to plan this in a coordinated way and perhaps seek advice on the most appropriate species of trees and shrubs to plant in and around the village.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Having a view so close to the village is a bonus from a number of viewpoints but particularly in the context of wildlife. This river can be a very valuable source of habitat

for many species of wildlife. However, the river is very much in need of being cleaned; at present at both bridges, it is clear that it is extremely overgrown. The river and bridge areas of the village should be made focal points. The village is fortunate in that there is a considerable amount of mature woodland in the vicinity and this provides habitat for other wildlife species.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter is a continuous problem for very many centres around the country. In your plans for Tidy Towns, it is essential that you make provision for litter bins to be placed at different locations in the village, for example, in the car park near the church, at the entrance to the GAA Field etc. At the time of adjudication, there was some litter in the car park near the church. There was some litter on the approach roads to the village. There was no litter in evidence in that area around the Post Office, shops etc.

TIDINESS

Some areas of the village were quite tidy, for example in the area of the church and the school. However, open areas/spaces within the village area were quite untidy. The immediate areas adjoining business premises were also tidy. The area close to the Co-op stores was also tidy. The area in the vicinity of the Playing Fields was quite untidy; also the area at the Carrigaline junction was very untidy. These areas are prominent in the village and therefore would need to be improved.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

This is an important category in the Competition as it gives an opportunity to every resident in a community to play their part. Houses and gardens in and around this village were indeed very well maintained. The residential area of Garan na Giuise – Spruce Grove was very neatly presented and the entrance to this area was very tidy and clean. Also the houses and gardens beyond the Co-op stores were also colourful and well maintained. Houses in the village were enhanced by colourful hanging baskets and window boxes.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The condition of approaches leading to the village varied – the road from Robert's Cove was reasonably tidy. The approach road from Kinsale was quite tidy. The Carrigaline road was extremely overgrown with high grass and weed growth on the verge; that stretch of this road immediately leading into the village is nicely wooded and should be a very pleasant approach to the village. There was also litter and even some dumping on this road at the time of adjudication. The old stone wall at the bridge at the junction

for Carrigaline has been damaged and is in need of repair. Virtually every traffic sign, speed limit signs and the poles on which they are mounted in the vicinity of this village are damaged, rusted and unsightly. Also only one advance name place sign for Minane Bridge is in place and that is on the Robert's Cove road; there should be a place-name sign for the village at least on the Carrigaline and Kinsale roads. These matters should be brought to the attention of the Local Authority to be rectified. It is nice to see the old Water Pump in the vicinity of the church being retained and brightly painted.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This village could be very substantially enhanced if the aims and objectives, which you have set out materialise. There is a good foundation on which to build as the village has interesting characteristics. The plan, which you have outlined, merits the support of the relevant public bodies and it is hoped that this report will in some way assist and encourage your community. Good luck in your efforts.