

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **SKIBBEREEN**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	43
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	21
Litter Control	40	27	28
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	8	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>225</b>

## **Skibbereen, Co. Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The adjudicator would like to thank you for the detailed Map, 2000 Work Programme, and the 3 Year Tidy Towns Development Plan. Your plans for Skibbereen are most ambitious but obviously the community and Local Authority working together will realise your ambitions for the town, the largest town in West Cork. The Inner Relief Road project will make a major difference to the traffic situation as at the moment the town suffers from heavy traffic volumes. When the new route is open in 2001 it should allow you to consider additional environmental improvements, which cannot be considered now for traffic reasons. It is most encouraging to see that the Tidy Towns effort in Skibbereen has so much support from the Local Authority, FAS and other Agencies.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The new Sculpture and landscaping at the new Roundabout was examined and this is an excellent development. As public sculptures go this is one of the more interesting ones that this adjudicator has seen. The new development for Cork Marts is really excellent. The nearby Telecom Eireann building and grounds is being well maintained and this building sits very comfortably into the landscape. The Tourist Information Office in North Street is well located and is an attractive building. One of the more prominent buildings in Skibbereen is the West Cork Arts Centre. This is an impressive building which has been painted with care. The Cope Foundation development on the Cork road was noted. On the Drimoleague road the large public playgrounds was very well presented. The Skibbereen RFC building is in urgent need of attention. Restoration and re-painting here would make a great difference - a small building to the rear with a broken window was also noted. At the Oil Depot on the Cork road the new landscaping at the Depot sign is maturing nicely. However the railings / gates of the Depot need urgent painting. The Credit Union building with its use of brick as a building medium is attractive. Garages are not always easy to maintain and the Shell Garage on the Baltimore road impressed. The No. 8 Famine building at the rear of the Main Street perhaps has potential for restoration, and could be most attractive looking out on the nearby river. Skibbereen still has far too many projecting signs, for example in North Street. Some buildings in North Street and Main Street will need re-painting for next year. You should try and discourage the use of plastic signs of which there are still a number in Skibbereen. The presentation of Abbeystrewry National School is really excellent.

## **LANDSCAPING**

Your tree planting programme was noted. Generally the standard of landscaping in Skibbereen is of a high standard, and the new Roundabout is a good example of this. Very attractive landscaping and planting was noted near the "Whispering Trees" property. Good landscaping was also admired in the Car Park off Main Street. The plans for baskets at ESB poles is also noted.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The amenity walk along the banks of the River Ilen is an excellent development that is most popular with walkers. The re-surfacing is noted. River bank cleaning and re-planting has been carried out to good effect. The Rossa Park project is developing well and will be most attractive when completed and open to the public. The planting of appropriate wildflowers here is noted. The Glencurragh Wood project, visited by the adjudicator, is to be highly commended. The adjudicator's Report in 1999 referred to the river which flows through the Car Park. There appears to be little evidence that much has been done to restore this amenity since last year. The adjudicator noted two out-fall pipes in the river which disgorged into the river in his presence. The river was also badly littered and is becoming overgrown in places. At the lower end of the river Mullet were noted in the water and their presence is frequently indicative of poor water quality. There is an opportunity here to make an excellent amenity right in the centre of Skibbereen.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

It is noted that you have provided extra litter bins, and litter control on adjudication day was quite good. Some litter was noted on the Schull approach road, and some near the houses at Glencurragh. The river in the Car Park was highly littered.

## **TIDINESS**

The Local Tidy Districts Competition is an excellent initiative, and this has been highly successful in other towns and villages in Ireland. On the Marsh road the long concrete wall near the road junction needs to be painted. Nearby at the junction of the Marsh Road and Glencurragh Road a very untidy triangular shaped area was noted. This needs your urgent attention. Approximately ten signs were noted at the junction by the Statoil Station – some rationalisation is required here on this important approach road to the town. On a number of unranked roads, cut grass was noted. All grass, once cut, must be taken away immediately. Rubbish on the roof of a building opposite Crowley Auctioneers in the Car Park was noted. Rubbish was also noted at the back of the same building on the Car Park side.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

New housing development along the river was noted. It is hoped that the developers will make a good brave use of colour and that they will incorporate appropriate landscaping measures. The small housing estate by Glencurragh Wood was well presented and the mature landscaping looked well. Good presentations of private houses were noted on the approach road by the Teagasc building. Riverdale is a mature estate backing onto the river. Watch out for weed growth here at kerbs. At the Holiday Apartments close to Sherkin House and untidy garage building immediately opposite the houses needs attention, as does the nearby long grass with boat and trailer. Most attractive terraced houses were noted at the end of Rossa road and some of these use excellent colour schemes. The yellow house here with hanging baskets especially impressed. Attractive mature older housing was noted in Market Street and Market Place. Some boundary walls here need to be painted. At the Orchard estate there is potential to use a co-ordinated scheme of bright colours for house fronts.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Approach road verges and banks in most instances had been recently cut. However there is a tendency in Skibbereen to cut the banks far too close, in some cases nearly down to the grass sod. This is not helpful from a wildlife point of view. Do remember that regular cutting is much more productive in presentation terms, than infrequent cutting. Good use is made of stone walls on several approach roads and this is impressive.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Skibbereen is an interesting town where Tidy Towns activity has achieved much. The plans for the future are ambitious but achievable, and your adjudicator wishes you well as you prepare for the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (09/08/00)**

It was noted that development is taking place across the river on the Ballydehob side of Skibbereen – the adjudicator would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the comments in regard to these being of an appropriate style and presentation to the town itself. Litter control was quite good on the day, indeed a litter patrol from the County Council was spotted! However, the adjudicator was disappointed to note the ongoing problem of dumping at the stream of the car park - this could be a marvellous focal point for the town and more should be made of it. A shop is for sale on Bridge Street – when this is restored to its former glory do ensure the retention the original sash windows in order to maintain this

building's unique vernacular style. The Town Hall building at the top of North Street will need some attention before next year as it appeared quite flaky on the day. All in all the busy town of Skibbereen looked well cared for on the day.