

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **UNION HALL**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	21
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	10	11
Residential Areas	30	25	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>204</b>

## **Union Hall, Co. Cork.**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

It would be helpful to the adjudicator if your Committee could enclose a copy of your Tidy Towns Action Plan with your Entry each year. This should also indicate your objectives for that year and what you have achieved. The adjudicator is concerned that your Committee does not appear to get much support from the community in carrying out your plans. Likewise the Local Authority is usually pleased to try and assist communities who are trying to achieve objectives that are important to their community. The new Tidy towns Handbook has been issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government to all Tidy towns Committees. This is a highly useful document which will be a great help both to established Tidy Towns Committees and to all new entrants. It is divided into a series of seven Action Sheets that together cover all aspects of the Competition. It might be most useful for a committee to run a series of seminar evenings based on the contents of this Tidy Towns Handbook. A village Map would be useful for the adjudicator also.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

It is most encouraging to see so much evidence of recent development carried out to a high standard – new infill buildings and restorations as well as stand alone buildings. The Myros Rowing Club building looks very well on a prominent site. The new Pier area was very presented with just one untidy area at the entrance to the old pier – long grass and an apparently abandoned trailer. A derelict building was noted overlooking the pier. The new and restored housing overlooking the pier looks extremely well. Ardagh House is an example of where the use of a strong colour on a large property has been very successful. The landscaping here has been carried out to a high standard also. At the Church of Ireland Church the gates are in need of re-painting. The Main Street as a group of largely older buildings has a good feeling of cohesiveness. Good colours have been used and the use of many flower displays adds much to the visual appearance of the streetscape. Premises that attract attention include Dinty's and Casey's. The toilets at the Playground / Sports Field area are in poor condition (gents). This is not acceptable, especially as the project was grant-aided by West Cork LEADER. In the gent's toilet the condition around the washbasin is especially horrific. The under-grounding of all cables in the Main Street would be an excellent project, and no doubt you have this in mind.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The Anchor and the boat filled with plants and shrubs occupies a key location and looked well on adjudication day. At the road junction for Leap the landscaping here is highly impressive. Hanging baskets and window boxes have been used to a lot in Union Hall and they are impressive. However do remember not to over do their use. It is important also that the individual character of each building is seen.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The adjudicator did not see any great evidence that you are highlighting the wildlife aspect of your water side village. No doubt you have this in your Action Plan for a future year. The Lagoon has major potential for wildlife. You may need to carry out a simple local survey to identify what wildlife you have in the area before you consider the provision of information plaques.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

In the village centre litter control on adjudication day was good. However some litter was noted on the Skibbereen approach road. The Lagoon also had some litter and what is probably the same plastic orange traffic cone mentioned in the 1999 Report is still in the Lagoon. There must be a regular programme of work to make sure that the Lagoon is kept litter free. It is one of the highlights of your village.

## **TIDINESS**

An untidy open space was noted near the Church on the same side of the road. The Playground / Sports Field area is in need of a tidying up – remove weed growth from gravel area, and paint low concrete block wall on the right hand side inside the gate. In the Main Street the storage area with the two Calor Kosangas signs, needs to have the road boundary wall painted. Likewise the gate should be painted, or better still an opening screen put in its place. Another untidy area was noted in opposite the Union Craft Shop on the Skibbereen approach road.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The vast majority of private properties were very well presented and reflect the great personal pride which people obviously have in their property. The standard of private landscaping was also equally high. The new stone faced houses at the Pier look really well and blend into the local environment. Some gable walls, for example on the Skibbereen road, are in need of painting.

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

The road in from the new Pier was extremely well presented, a good road surface and attractive stone walls. In general the

approach roads looked well. Remember when planning the cutting of banks and verges that the nesting needs of wildlife need to be considered.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

With total community involvement in the Tidy Towns Competition much further good work can be achieved in the years ahead. Good luck !