

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **COURTMACSHERRY**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	35
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	205	203

Courtmacsherry, Co. Cork.

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator is concerned to note that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted with the entry documentation.

Progress in the competition will be dependent on everyone working towards the same ends. With this in mind you must 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 you 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 essential aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition.

Do keep in mind that what is required is a simple Plan or document of 3 to 5 pages long. The submission of such a Plan each year is now a requirement of all entrants to the Competition.

A Tidy Towns Handbook was issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government to all Tidy Towns Committees. This is a highly useful document which is 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.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Further work on the amenity walks is noted, and this is a fine feature for any town or village to have. Both Churches are well presented as are many of the buildings in the town. The Main Street has a very long row of terraced buildings that are most impressive. Many have been frequently painted and a good choice of colours has been made. However there are some buildings that still require early re-painting. Some of the buildings that stand out are the lovely shop-front of "Courtmacsherry Ceramics" and "J O'Donovan". The Lifeboat Station is a beautifully designed and presented small building. An attractive raised seated area was noted beside the Tennis Courts. The Car Park area beyond the beach needs attention as it is generally untidy and needs to be surfaced. At the nearby Tennis Courts the timber fencing requires repair and painting, and a general tidy up is required here.

LANDSCAPING

There are many areas of visually attractive landscaping in Courtmacsherry. The Park is a nicely maintained amenity and

excellent displays of roses were noted here. Your Schools Campaign is noted on your Application Form, and the involvement of schools in the competition is always important.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The "Birds of the Estuary" information panel and the angling information panel are most useful and interesting. The estuary walk is one of the finest bird watching areas in this part of West Cork. Do try and develop further amenities that will encourage wildlife to your area. The first step however is to identify the species which inhabit any such areas. Wildlife can be encouraged by the planting of native berry producing trees and shrubs. The provision of bird and bat roosts and nesting sites in any old buildings might also be considered by your Committee. Make sure that any wildlife areas to which the public have access are properly sign-posted. In terms of access do remember the needs of people with disabilities. The development of these amenity walks and nature trails will add greatly to your area in the years ahead.

The beach area is very attractive and was clean on adjudication day.

LITTER CONTROL

The local litter competition is noted, and this is an excellent way of highlighting the issue of litter. Occasional litter was noted in the Park area, and very small amounts in other areas.

TIDINESS

There are some untidy open spaces on the water side of the village that need your early attention. These potentially could become attractive landscaped areas. The first action here is have some discussions with the owners and get their views. An abandoned van was noted in the car park near the beach. A few posters were noted on poles and this is a trend that must be discouraged.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Your awareness campaign for residential areas is a good idea and hopefully you are getting good co-operation on this. An attractive development of stone and slate hung buildings was noted on the Timoleague approach. The heavy landscaping at the Anchor Bay Cottages is effective. In general most private properties are well maintained and in many cases excellent planting was noted. "St. Joseph's Place" and "Hamilton Row" are other impressive residential areas.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads have received attention. However the approach from Timoleague needs further attention. Grass has been somewhat roughly cut and cut grass has not always been taken away. You should try and achieve a lush green appearance here. This will only come from regular cutting. The Barryroe approach roads looks particularly well and

nature along has been at work here.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Courtmacsherry is a very attractive water side village with many interesting features. Your first priority must be the preparation of your Action plan and this should be put together by your Committee. Good luck in your work for 2002.