

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DOUGLAS**
County : **CORK**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	--
The Built Environment	40	26	--
Landscaping	40	22	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	--
Litter Control	40	20	--
Tidiness	20	12	--
Residential Areas	30	17	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	170	--

Douglas, County Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Douglas Tidy Towns Committee is indeed welcome to the competition in this their first year of entry. The adjudicator was pleased to note the valuable assistance you are getting from both Cork Corporation and County Council. Good luck with your endeavours in regard to FÁS workers. The development of the cottage garden at the entrance to East Douglas Village should be a marvelous asset to this area. As you have said, Douglas Village has developed enormously over the last ten to fifteen years – do ensure that new developments enhance rather than detract from its character. The basis for your three to five year work plan, through close consultation with Cork Corporation, County Council and local residents, is a logical place at which to start. Douglas is obviously a place of great historical interest in terms of its old mill buildings, its significance as an old tram terminus and its churches. Perhaps for next year's competition you could clearly indicate on your map these areas of local interest in order to facilitate the adjudicator on the day.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As you point out in your submission, Douglas generally consist the two main streets which form the East and West Village. The three shopping centers make this an extremely busy center. In terms of Douglas Village Shopping Centre, the coping to the boundary wall to the car park has been damaged in places and should be replaced. The many advertising hoardings in its car park make it look quite cluttered and untidy. Perhaps this area could be softened with some landscaping in its prominent location. The stone and brick cottages of the West Village form the bulk of the urban fabric in this area – try to ensure that the small scale village atmosphere is maintained in future developments. Do discourage the use of curved plastic canopies and encourage their replacement with more traditional fabric awnings. John O'Sullivan's Pub appeared to be quite flaky on adjudication day and should be painted up before next year's competition. Perhaps consider a colour scheme for the buildings of the West Village in order to brighten up their appearance somewhat. Barry's in the East Village with its abundant window boxes and bay trees either side of the door looked extremely fresh in mustard. Centra in this location was very fresh and the Bohemian Restaurant was admired. O'Conchubhair's Pub in the West Village was well maintained in terracotta. The community school and grounds looked fine. Modern buildings such as the architect's office in the old national school on the Carrickaline Road add greatly to the urban fabric. The use of limestone at the ground floor level of the TSB and on the modern building at the junction of the entrance to East Douglas Village Development were greatly

admired. The churches were extremely well maintained – of particular note being the large overhanging cooper beech tree to the car park area of the Catholic Church and Scout Hall.

LANDSCAPING

Your plans for upgrading the community park and the cottage garden at the entrance to the East Village are indeed commendable. The railings and planting to the front of the former looked well – perhaps the concrete rail fence to the riverside in the park itself could be replaced with a stone wall. The roundabout to the entrance to the West Village had yet to be planted and appeared to be just soil on the day! In contrast, the magnificent landscaping to the large roundabout on the Rochestown side of the village enhances this area greatly. Scope for further landscaping projects are at the Shell garage on East Douglas Street, in front of the cinema and at the national school.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your planned surveys of the Douglas Estuary is a marvelous initiative. Try to get the local school children involved in formulating nature trails and walks – drawing up maps of areas of local wildlife interest. Do consult with local experts in this regard also. There are many helpful hints for further developments of this aspect of the competition in your Tidy Towns Handbook. If you do not have a copy, the handbook is available from the Department of the Government and Local Government.

LITTER CONTROL

Your initiatives in this regard are highly commendable in terms of the litter warden and the Saturday morning street sweep. Do try to ensure that your “no litter” signs do not give the streetscape a cluttered appearance. Your identification of problem areas for the County Council and Corporation should help in regard to this aspect of the competition. Certainly on the day, litter control seemed to be a definite problem in certain areas. Examples of these were on the approach from the Southern Ring Road, the bus stop and green space opposite the Maxol station and further along this road.

TIDINESS

Weed control was a problem on the day. Weeds were apparent at kerbsides on the approach from the Southern Ring / Turner's Cross Road. The car park area beside Cashman's Bookmakers should be softened up with landscaping and the empty site to the front of the Legion of Mary in the East Village looks quite forlorn and neglected in its prominent location. Graffiti was evident to the back of the Douglas Village Shopping Centre at East Douglas Street and at the entrance area to the park.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Your plans in relation to a major clean up of estates are indeed commendable. Litter bins in prominent locations at

housing estates are certainly a major concern as litter seems to be a definite problem near housing areas. Residential areas form a major part of the urban fabric in Douglas Village and, hence, the adjudicator was pleased to note your high level of support from local residents committees. Housing estates were generally reasonably well cared for. Of particular note in terms of care were Shamrock Lawn and Ballybrack Heights. Perhaps you could consider implementing an inter-estate competition to encourage further improvements in this area.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Your plans in relation to the upgrading of roads, footpaths and introduction of suitable lighting are indeed commendable. The uniformity of information signs and directional plaques indicating areas of local interest are to be particularly encouraged. The condition of the road surface on the approach from the Southern Ring Road was bad and a lot of litter was apparent in this area. Do ensure that signage is not neglected when considering presentation in this aspect of the competition. The signage directing to the community school at Claremont Terrace was very grubby and that to the primary schools was in a similar condition. The directional signs for the airport appeared quite faded and should be freshly painted up. The street name signs were admired but perhaps consideration could be given to larger street nameplates to be erected on corner buildings. The old limestone nameplate at the junction of Carrigaline and East Douglas Road on the building façade was quite charming. In terms of this aspect of the competition concentrate on the village central areas, as these are of prime importance. Church Yard Lane is quite charming and extremely well maintained. The bollards by the bus stop on Church Street appeared quite flaky and should be painted up before next year's competition.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Douglas Village is a busy and vibrant center which has made a good first entry to the competition. The adjudicator was pleased to note there is a definite encouragement by the committee in the use of the Irish language.