

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	44
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	233	229

Skibbereen, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Skibbereen Tidy Town's Committee and UDC have put together a very comprehensive and structured submission. You have updated your three year development plan to indicate both areas where work is taking place and where it has been completed over the last year. The map you submitted was quite clear but perhaps a more simplified version could be submitted next year. Your ideas in relation to a tidy district competition are extremely worthwhile, as are your plans in relation to developing a landscaped people's park at Rossa Park. The Famine Walk is another worthwhile development as are the wild flower gardens you have created.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Schools of the town were well maintained – in particular that on the Castletownshend Road and the National School at the convent. The stone Catholic Church looks quite imposing set on the hill and the Gospel Hall was quite fresh. Indeed most of the buildings along the main streets were fresh and cheerful. These included D. Crowley's, The Vaults with its hanging baskets, Kalbo's Bistro and An Gobán Saor with its marvellous use of the Irish language. The 1798 monument and Town Hall were fine on North Street, and the Post Office looked extremely well in brick. Centra and the West Cork Hotel were extremely fresh with colourful window boxes. One or two buildings were in bad repair such as those adjacent to Kathleen Collins and Baby Hannah's.

LANDSCAPING

The garden centre on Castletownshend Road sports some very attractive landscaping to its frontage. The roundabout for Baltimore and Lough Hyne sports some jaunty sculptural copper elements on a grassy mound with new planting to beds. The hanging baskets to the car park opposite the church and other locations such as the bridge area looked quite cheerful. The playground was being well used in the location in the park on the Cork Road. Beds of flowers on this road, in particular at the Carbery Showgrounds the attractive landscaping on the Bantry Road with its sculptural stone elements, well cut grass and trees along the Ilen River was greatly admired.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your plans to erect signage and information boards in relation to the wildlife and fauna of the area are highly commendable. You mentioned in your submission that you are currently investigating means of presentation in relation to these. It would seem obvious, since there are numerous local artists in the area to hand-paint these signs. The wild flower gardens at

Riverdale and Cork Road will be a wonderful asset. Glencurragh Wood is another fine project, whereby you plan to create a woodland with walkways affording the visitor a magnificent view back to the town.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control on the day could have been better. A number of papers were evident on the Cork Road and bottle, can and papers were evident on the Bantry Road in particular at the landscaped area.

TIDINESS

The town was generally quite neat and tidy on adjudication day. Weed control was a problem however, to kerbsides throughout, particularly on the Castletownshend Road. The boundary wall to the Cork County Engineers should be painted to match its entrance area which was freshly presented. The Carbery showground's wall creates a bad impression to the visitor as they enter the town on the Cork approach. A tin roofed shed by the Heritage Centre was quite rusty and should be replaced or freshly painted up in its traditional red colour. In terms of street furniture a bench on the Baltimore Road appeared to be quite flaky.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the houses in the village centre, along approach roads and estates seemed well cared for on the day. The Orchard Estate is an attractive development with traditional vertical hung slate. One or two railings along this road were in need of painting on the day as they appeared quite rusty. A raised garden with neatly mown grass above its stone boundary wall on the Cork Road was greatly admired, as was the adjacent property. A grubby boundary wall on this approach created a bad impression. The estates at Assumption Place and Ilen Villas were both presented to a high standard.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category was reasonable but could have been improved upon. The Castletownshend Road was quite overgrown, the town nameplate sign being virtually obscured. Weeds were apparent along the kerbsides. This road was to a higher standard closer to the town. The Cork Road was maintained to a good standard with neatly cut verges. The road surface had one or two potholes, however. Along the Bantry Road weeds were evident to the kerbside and it appeared to be slightly overgrown. The Baltimore Road sported some marvellous montbretia which was admired.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Skibbereen is a busy West Cork working town which continues to progress steadily in the competition.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (07/08/01)

After rain during the night Skibbereen looked perfectly fresh

and colourful in the morning sunlight. The Eldon Hotel with its striking paintwork was particularly magnificent. It was very pleasing to see the streets being swept at 6 am before all the day's traffic arrived. Some litter was noted in peripheral areas and on the outskirts. Some flyposting also was noted regrettably. The main approaches were adequately maintained but there is considerable scope for further enhancement by way of tree planting. On the traffic island near the post office planted tubs were partially obscuring important road signs. The impression of the town unfortunately changes somewhat on entering the car park to the rear of SuperValu where untidy open yards are all too visible and the river appears neglected. As you are well aware consistency is the key to success in the competition. We wish you well with your future endeavours!