

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **TIMOLEAGUE**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 14-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	32	29
Landscaping	40	29	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	28	28
Litter Control	40	28	26
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>210</b>

## **Timoleague, Co. Cork.**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Timoleague is an attractive village, with its colourful houses stepping up the hillside and marvellous ruined abbey. The adjudicator noticed many improvements since last visiting the village. Your three to five year work programme, formulated as it was in February 1999 is now half way through and you seem to have successfully achieved many of the objectives you set yourselves. Maybe for next year's competition you could set a timescale against these projects.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Many of the buildings of the village appeared extremely bright, fresh and colourful. The charming centrally located Catholic Church looked most attractive, especially the side entrance area off Chapel Hill. The railings to the main entrance on Main Street will perhaps need to be painted up before next year's competition. The Church of Ireland and grounds looked extremely well maintained. The National School looked extremely fresh but some weeding was necessary to its playground area. The public toilets adjacent to the Abbey looked fine as did the Community Centre. Pad Joe's looked most attractive in pink with blue trims and its abundant window boxes. Perhaps the water pump should be painted before next year's competition. As a long term and quite minor objective perhaps you could consider more discreet floodlighting lamps in the vicinity of the Abbey – those currently in use are quite large!

### **LANDSCAPING**

In the location of the Abbey, its entrance area is extremely well kept. The attractive planting in stone beds leading to Abbey Street looked extremely well but the picnic area between the ruin and the shoreline looked somewhat neglected. One of the picnic tables was missing its seat and some weeding was necessary in the vicinity of these tables. The attractively maintained St. Patrick's statue was admired – some rusty railings to a field opposite should be painted up before next year's competition. The walkway that is formed by the Timoleague and Courtmacsherry roadside railway looked most attractive. However some weeding was necessary at its entrance area.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The tiles indicating the wildlife of the estuary, set as they are in stone bases at the Timoleague and Courtmacsherry railway walkway were greatly admired. There appeared to be many walks in the vicinity which can be enjoyed by both resident and visitor. The restocking of the pond is to be highly commended.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The standard in this category of the competition was extremely good – the school children’s litter patrol is obviously paying off. However the odd paper was apparent on the Bandon Road and some litter was evident to the yard area opposite the pottery shop on Mill Street.

## **TIDINESS**

The rusty canopy to the garage and its rear area and sign create a very bad impression in its prominent location. The adjudicator appreciates your problems in relation to the broken wall opposite the graveyard – some minor staining was apparent to its boundary wall. The tin roof to a shed on Abbey Street should be freshly painted. A yard area with quite grubby looking out buildings, to the area opposite the pottery should be more successfully screened from public view.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Do bear in mind that it is not recommend that plaster be removed from vernacular Irish village houses – as well as being academically unwise from the conservation viewpoint, it can cause problems with water penetration, as these buildings were not meant to have stonework exposed to the elements. Most of the houses in the village centre looked very fresh and colourful, many with overflowing hanging baskets and window boxes. The many B&B’s on approach roads contribute well to their environment. A grubby boundary wall on the Clonakilty approach road was in sharp contrast to the general high standard of maintenance to houses. Chapel Avenue Estate and its public space were extremely well maintained. Do ensure that the new houses under construction by the Abbey are in keeping with the character of the village.

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

The standard of approach roads was quite inconsistent on adjudication day. The Bandon Road is an attractive approach as the colourful village rises up before you on the hill across the river with the ruined Abbey below. Directional signs on this approach appeared quite grubby and should be washed down. The Clonakilty Road was fine – perhaps the grassy banks could be cut back more neatly for next year’s competition. The Courtmacsherry Road was fine and the Wood Road was extremely well maintained, with its variety of overhanging trees. The Chapel Hill approach was quite overgrown this affords the visitor a magnificent view of the colourful buildings of the village, the estuary and Courtmacsherry beyond.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The charming village of Timoleague has much to offer the visitor in terms of its unusual tidal estuary, charming churches and stone bridges and, of course, the magnificent ruin of the Abbey.