

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **YOUGHAL**
County : **CORK**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	34	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	220	215

Youghal, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Many thanks to Youghal Tidy Towns Association for their thorough submission. Your action plan reads well and is a very sensitive and sensible one. There is much evidence of ongoing work and continuing improvements throughout the town. You have put forward some fine proposals in relation to such things as the town's wealth of heritage, the removal of plastic signage from shop fronts (which is a continuing problem) and the upgrading of public areas. There is indeed much evidence of industrious enthusiasm in the town to the casual visitor.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The many hotels and Bed & Breakfasts of the town make a good contribution to this category, for example, the Walter Raleigh Hotel, Roseville B&B and the Devonshire Arms Hotel. You are fortunate in regard to Youghal's fine stock of medieval stone buildings such as the magnificent clock tower etc. It also sports some unusual shop fronts which would benefit from restoration such as Adams and the empty shop adjacent to the Daisy Chain Florist. There is some unusual elaborate wrought iron work to the first floor level of shops such as Merrick's and Supervalu which are quite unusual. The early modern cinema is also a fine building with its original features including front door. The unusual concrete garage from this period near the Devonshire Arms would benefit from freshening up – this is also an unusual and welcome addition to the fine stock of buildings in the town. Many buildings were extremely fresh such as the lifeboat station, the bright yellow public lavatories, the Red Store Bar and Restaurant and the Lighthouse. However, some problem areas were a few neglected shop fronts on north of Main Street at the corner of DeValera Street which looked most unfortunate in contrast to the many well cared for premises.

LANDSCAPING

This is an aspect of the competition in which you obviously enthuse. The promenade is a magnificent and attractive traditional seaside feature. The relatively new stone wall and planted bed were admired as was the unusual (almost oriental style) bandstand in the park area opposite the Walter Raleigh Hotel. Hard landscaped areas such as that to Barry Lane add a contrasting element to the soft landscaped areas. The millennium roundabout is extremely well maintained, incorporating as it does the post box and several stone sculptural features at junctions. The Millennium Garden of Time and playground adjacent is most attractive with its water features. Public spaces such as car parks and private premises sport very cheerful hanging baskets and window boxes which add to the town's overall appearance.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The adjudicator was pleased to note the Blue Flag status of the beach on the Cork side of the town. The sloblands mentioned in your submission are obviously the source of great pride for the area.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was generally very good on the day but there were one or two problem areas such as at the Courthouse/Market and by the Millennium Park.

TIDINESS

Advertising hoardings cluttering approach roads should be discouraged. Gable walls should be painted. The shops on North Main Street at the corner of de Valera Street were in need of attention.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are some attractive gardens high above the roadside by the promenade and at Fitzgerald Terrace, in this area of the town. Dysera Grove on the Cork Road sports a well maintained open space and some attractive modern houses. The Tidy Estate competition is a worthy and worthwhile one.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category of the competition was somewhat inconsistent. The Dungarvan approach road was that which was maintained to the highest standard. This is an attractive approach with its overhanging sycamore trees. However, some weeding was required to kerbsides further out this road. Advertising hoardings give approach roads a cluttered appearance and should be actively discouraged. In terms of signage this was generally fine although some directional signs were rather grubby.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Youghal has improved greatly since the adjudicator's last visit. Well done!