

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Milford-Cork**

Ref: **746**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **218**

Category: **B**

Date: **25/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	34
The Built Environment	40	27	25
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	218	213

Overall Developmental Approach:

The Urban and Village renewal programme that is due to start in 2005 will be a very welcome initiative and with all the work of the Tidy Towns committee up to now, that initiative will be building on a very positive foundation. The schedule of work outlined for the next three years submitted is a positive and optimistic approach in which very clear aims are expressed. Very good progress has been made to date and a committee of twelve people is a good size and will promote much activity.

The Built Environment:

The church is a very prominent building and the stone of this building is attractive. The presbytery also looks very well and is well painted. The school with its strong colour sits very well in its location. The stonework is a particular feature of this village and is well utilised. The bridges, stone surrounds to the shrubberies and the walls all combine to define the character of the village. The very untidy site opposite single storied houses is particularly unhelpful, however. The green fence conceals this site a little. The single storied houses themselves are attractive. The first of these houses on the church or bridge side has retained its original character and looks particularly well. The others have various windows and doors of PVC materials. Two farm buildings, one on the Scart Road and the other in the village at West End, show great taste in the presentation of their stonework. The shops and business premises are well painted and give the village centre a very fresh and crisp look. The Creamery and the walls of this building facing the road would benefit from painting. The gates of the church are very ornate and well treated in the silver colour. The derelict

buildings in the village continue to present challenges.

Landscaping:

The park opposite the creamery is a lovely sight and makes for a very relaxing place by the river. The park is well maintained and perhaps more work across the river would give an attractive view. The shrubberies at the village centre and at the Doona Road junction are attractive and a range of plants have been used so that they will look well over the course of the year. Gardens of individual houses along the roadside contribute very well to the landscape of the village with their beautiful gardens. This is a very important part of the appearance of a town or village. The church grounds and the planting and maintenance of the school grounds are attractive. The green area to the front of Dr. Croke estate is well mown and the large trees are good. More tree planting in the green areas of this estate and a higher standard of grass care are needed, particularly further away from the front section. The open space to the front of Coolnagour is well kept and the small shrubbery by the nameplate is attractive. The small bedding displays by the poles were noted. Tree planting along the front of this site would be good for future generations to enjoy – even three or four well spaced trees using Ash, Oak, Sycamore or Chestnut would help. The house in the village centre with virginian creeper forms an attractive feature.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The riverside must offer interesting possibilities. A riverside walk would be a lovely feature. Please consider various projects for ways of gaining extra enjoyment and appreciation of the wildlife of the area.

Litter Control:

Overall, there is a very clean appearance to the village. There were some small items of litter noted on roadsides here and there but overall the system in place is working well. The recycling bottle banks are nicely located,

Tidiness:

The village centre has a very tidy appearance. However, the derelict buildings (and some other buildings just needing fresh paint) detract from this. The accumulation of produce outside the post office is not helpful. Overhead cables will hopefully be placed underground when the village renewal scheme is in place.

Residential Areas:

A number of walls in Dr. Croke's Place housing estate need painting and weeds along the kerbs should be dealt with. Coolnagour Estate has a very good standard of care and maintenance. Individual houses that are looked after well in both estates stand out and credit is due to the householders. The houses on the West End Road are very well cared for as are those on the Scart Road. Some well presented houses on the approach roads to the town also contribute.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The names signs are very attractive and consistent around the village. The "entry to the village" signs are also well placed and look well. Road surfaces are in good condition, although some roughness to the edges of the road and some broken paths were noted. Repairs to road surfaces often result in an uneven surface developing unless the entire road is resurfaced again. Roadside verges on the entry roads are well treated. There is a good balance between severe removal of all the natural vegetation and a more sensitive approach, which allows the native plants and hedging to be appreciated.

General Impression:

The prospect of the village renewal scheme is exciting and the village hopefully will get a major lift from that scheme. However, it is important that the momentum generated by the Tidy Towns committee is sustained you are the backbone of developments and will be in place long after any once-off scheme.