

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Blarney**

Ref: **559**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **210**

Category: **D**

Date: **29/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	29	29
Litter Control	40	21	22
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	19
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	210	207

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator was pleased to note that you had received voluntary support, following your public information meeting. The work of the boy scouts will be most useful and obviously instills a good sense of community in the younger generation. The completion of the Blarney Relief Road will be of great benefit to the village centre area. The Martin Valley Walk is a marvelous initiative which will be a fine asset to the village, as indeed will the sculpture park.

The Built Environment:

The school and grotto on the hill looked well and was extremely fresh. Relatively modern shopping centres on each side of the village were generally presented to a high standard. The Blarney Park Hotel and grounds contribute well to this aspect of the competition. The Church of Ireland, in its prominent location, is quite charming and the Catholic Church in sandstone looked well, on a height above the village. The creeper-clad Blarney Woolen Mills and Christie's Hotel sport some well maintained grounds. Premises around the Village Green looked well, such as the Post Office, Garda Station and the AIB. Do ensure that vernacular buildings that were meant to be rendered retain this finish, as the removal of render to buildings such as these is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view but can also cause the structural problem of water penetration.

Landscaping:

Commercial premises contribute well to this category of the competition. The Blarney Park Hotel and the Blarney Woolen Mills have been mentioned previously. Joe O'Reilly Travel Group presented their entrance area to the highest standard, also. The simply presented Village Green with surrounding wall were well used and simply presented. Incidental landscaped areas within the village centre and along approach roads were also well maintained.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Inchacomain Park, Wildlife Area and walk were well used on the day. It sported some attractive wild daisies and its sculpture was admired. Clogheenmilcon Wildlife Sanctuary is also a good initiative as is the children's wildlife park, which will provide an important educational facilities for the young.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day could have been better. Quite a lot of litter was evident surrounding the Village Green to the roadsides and more was scattered along the Cork Road. Blarney is a busy centre but, unfortunately, due to its size, even one or two papers are all the more evident.

Tidiness:

The village generally had a neat and ordered appearance. Main areas were presented to the highest standards and rear areas were generally considered during presentation.

Residential Areas:

Housing estates along approach roads were generally fine. Houses in the village centre were well presented and the numerous B&B's of the village contribute well to this category of the competition.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard in this category of the competition was generally good, with approach roads sporting some well maintained grass verges and create an attractive entrance to the village. Do ensure that the by-pass is presented to the highest standards, as many people will be making use of this facility.

General Impression:

Blarney is a busy and popular centre which continues to attract a large number of visitors every year. Your work is ongoing and Blarney Development Group has maintained a consistent standard for a number of years.