

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cobh**

Ref: **553**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **231**

Category: **E**

Date: **07/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	36
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>227</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

A committee of ten seems rather small for a town of Cobh's size. Perhaps for next year's competition, you could formulate a work programme, outlining your plans for the town's future development. This will help both the adjudicators and yourselves to monitor your progress as the years go by. The adjudicator was pleased to note that you were preparing guidelines for contractors working on the town and are putting together bye-laws to regulate the use of skips. Hopefully the derelict sites at Harbour Row will be developed as soon as your landslide problem is resolved. It is also to be hoped that the old church cemetery will be restored to its former glory. The Titanic Trail is an interesting concept. Perhaps for next year's competition you could annotate your map rather than using reference numbers for your colour coding as this would make it easier and simpler to read.

### The Built Environment:

Most of the commercial premises in the town looked well cared for on the day. Of particular note was the Roaring Donkey and Classic Hardwood Flooring and Fireplaces. These were most colourful and well maintained. The fire station looked well, as did the cathedral, where a wedding was taking place, affording the guests a magnificent view back over the town. However, the gates at the lower level to the cathedral appeared quite rusty and should be painted before next year's competition. Do discourage the use of curved plastic canopies and encourage their replacement with traditional fabric awnings. There are a number of attractive traditional shop fronts that would benefit from

some sensitive restoration and retention, for example Keen House. The two banks contribute well to this aspect of the competition; the AIB sported some colourful hanging baskets. The museum appeared to be in better condition than the adjudicator's last visit to the town. The contemporary garda station was well maintained and the new complex incorporating swimming pool, etc. will be a marvelous asset to the people of the town. Pillar's Bar, in its prominent location, has an attractive classical facade and tower. Perhaps stonework could be cleaned down and the render section painted.

### **Landscaping:**

Do ensure that, in this category of the competition, you do not rely on the cosmetic appearance of floral displays alone. Plenty of permanent planting and trees are always preferable as they will have a more long term and year round effect. The promenade and bandstand area looked well and busy on a sunny Summer's day. The Five Foot Way Project was also well used, with its plants, trees and lamp standards, and will look magnificent when it matures. The monument to those lost on the Lusitania was admired, with its brass figures and limestone base. The grotto was well maintained and an attractive green area, below the stone embankment at the railway station, was admired.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The wildlife reserve at Cuskinny is a magnificent asset from an educational and natural heritage point of view. Your work in relation to tree planting was noted and appreciated. Try to ensure that you plant berry-producing trees and shrubs, in order to encourage wildlife. The wildlife garden to Scoil Iosaef Naofa is certainly a well worthwhile project and the children's work in relation to surveying at Cuskinny is to be highly commended.

### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day could have been better. Some litter was evident along the Cork approach road. Quite a lot of litter was evident along the main streets of the town and outside the railway station. The additional litter bins are well worthwhile, as is the purchase of the road sweeper.

### **Tidiness:**

Although the town had generally a quite neat and ordered appearance on the day, closer inspection revealed some problem areas. Finger post signage was rusty in a number of locations. The recycling bins near the railway station should be screened from public view. Weeds were evident to kerbsides in this vicinity. Weeds were also evident at the bases of trees on Roger Casement Square. The BIM Ice Plant should be repainted before next year's competition. Rusty stains were evident on the coping of the wall below the railings adjacent to the arts centre. Your work in relation to the derelict sites in the town centre is to be commended and much progress has been made in this regard.

### **Residential Areas:**

New houses were still under construction on the more minor road from Cork. The older houses in this locality looked well, although a number of boundary walls were in need of some attention. The attractive houses at Edmund Rice Terrace were admired for their colourful and modern style at the top of the hill. A terrace of houses close by was also admired. The numerous attractive houses and gardens on the lower road and the upper road to Cork were greatly admired and the numerous housing estates were generally well maintained.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

On the secondary road from Cork the trees were admired but some kerbside weeds were evident opposite the Esso station. Planted beds were admired at the entrance to the town at this end, and looked most cheerful. The grass verges in the vicinity of a housing estate with a stone wall to the front, by the Statoil station on the Cork Road appeared quite overgrown. Your work in regard to resurfacing of roads and the installation of new footpaths is to be highly commended.

### **General Impression:**

Cobh is a busy and vibrant town which continues to do well in the competition. It was extremely busy on a sunny Summer's day, with numerous visitors from the Cruise Liner docked in the town.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

This adjudicator has never seen so many visitors in Cobh as each amenity area, together with the town centre generally, was full to capacity. Indeed the vibrant fresh paint and colourful planting in the context of the glistening blue sea created a beautiful ambience. On the other hand, the uphill and peripheral parts of the town were somewhat inconsistent with less than adequate maintenance being the main problem. Weeds were quite a problem around the base of some trees and at kerbsides in many areas, including residential. In addition the many potentially fine stonewalls had not received adequate attention, especially where they overgrown to such an extent that litter was accumulating. Litter control seemed marginally better this time. Hang on to your aspirations – you can do it!