

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cuil-Aodha**

Ref: **11**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **179**

Category: **A**

Date: **07/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	22	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	24	22
Tidiness	20	10	11
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	179	177

Overall Developmental Approach:

Cuil Aodha appears to have a good level of support from Udaras na Gaeltachta, FAS and the County Council. The Tidy Town's Committee, at fifteen strong, is certainly very large. It was disappointing to note that you had not enclosed a development plan with this year's application, nor with last year's. Has that produced the previous year been completed? You should enclose your development plan with each year's application, in order that each adjudicator can assess your progress. If you have completed your work programme, then it is time to draft up a new one based on your previous one.

The Built Environment:

The toilet block was mentioned last year as needing some attention. The front and sides of this building appeared to have been painted since, but not the rear nor the inside. Weeds were apparent behind it. The swimming pool was well maintained as was Aras Eamon mac Suibhne. The school was still for sale.

Landscaping:

Last year's report mentioned the need for more landscaped areas throughout the village. This adjudicator would concur with that opinion. Incidental landscaped spaces that were in place, were

quite charming. The attractive planting at the entrance stone features was admired, as was that by the post box. More of these areas are necessary within the village centre. Perhaps you could consider replacement of the concrete post and wire fence on the Kilgarvan Road with indigenous hedging of beech or hawthorn or a stone wall.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It was disappointing to note that you left this category of the competition blank. Cúil Aodha is indeed fortunate in this regard, with its close proximity to some magnificent natural amenities. Enlist the help of local experts in order to assist you in drawing up and identifying wildlife habitats in your locality and drafting a management plan for them. Ferns and foxgloves were abundant in hedgerows.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good with little being evident.

Tidiness:

The blue tin shed mentioned in last year's report is still in need of attention. Do discourage the practice of fly posting, as it gives approach roads a cluttered appearance. Cars were still being dumped beside the hall, which, in its prominent location, looks most unfortunate. The charming church looked quite sweet, but will need painting up before next year's competition. There are a large number of derelict and abandoned buildings in the village centre and these would benefit greatly from merely being painted up.

Residential Areas:

Cois Locha looked extremely fresh and new. A charming house with stone featured garden on the Kilgarvan approach was admired and the yellow house and shed with its magnificent display of snapdragons in the village centre was also greatly admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The hand-painted stone monoliths marking the entrance at both ends of the village were admired. The Macroom Road appeared quite overgrown and, in places, signage was unreadable. Perhaps consideration could be given to trimming the verges along this road and letting the banks grow and appear more natural. New footpaths were noted. The Kilgarvan Road was maintained to a higher standard. The verges had been cut back, but the dead grass had yet to be removed. Ferns, foxgloves and blackberries were evident to hedgerows. The retention of the square traditional sign is highly commendable.

General Impression:

Cúil Aodha is a charming village set in some magnificent scenery with marvelous views of the surrounding mountainsides. There is an abundance of new building but also quite a lot of dereliction. Attention should be given to this distinct problem, as it is creating an extremely bad impression of what is essentially a very charming village.