

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Douglas**

Ref: **449**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **192**

Category: **F**

Date: **28/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	32
The Built Environment	40	29	27
Landscaping	40	26	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	26	21
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	20
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	192	176

Overall Developmental Approach:

The achievements of the tidy towns committee in Douglas have been very significant. In a clearly identifiable area so near to the city centre, it is heartening to see local community take such an interest and work hard towards building a better environment within the area. Douglas is a very self-sufficient compartment within Cork by all accounts. The cooperation that you have achieved with local authorities, businesses, residents associations and schools is a great strength for the committee and can only lead to further improvements with all interested parties on board. Planning for the next 3 to 5 years bearing all this in mind is an important component of activity that must be undertaken, a time frame set for completion of targets and a yearly assessment of progress.

The Built Environment:

The range of buildings and architectural styles is enormous in Douglas and presents a study in itself. The old street premises are well presented with good standards of painting and cleanliness. Various on street styles are observable: the very traditional; the single storied cottage terrace styles, which are well painted but most have lost their original authentic windows and doors and even some mansard roof style houses were noticed. St. Patrick's Mills offers yet another style. The East Village is particularly interesting, this area looks extremely well and it contrasts well with the other forms representing a modern introduction into Douglas. The major shopping centres, cinema and the Church style architecture complete the picture.

Landscaping:

The Fingerpost roundabout is very attractively treated, as is the surrounding landscaping at this junction. The landscaping around the Axham House is especially well done and has interesting plants for all year round effect. The community park offers a good facility with grass and trees and the children's play area. Perhaps a part of this park could offer some more interesting horticultural feature – a rose garden perhaps. There are several pockets of landscaping that contribute well. The cemeteries were noted – there is a wide variation in the maintenance of the different cemeteries. Well-maintained cemeteries are an important part of the landscape of a community area. The other two roundabouts are also colourful and look well. Tree planting to the road frontage of the Douglas Court Shopping centre provides a good framework for the centre. The central building opposite this shopping centre – Ulster Bank, has a very attractive landscaped surround. Many gardens contribute well to the overall landscape of the district.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The signboard displayed was noted. Projects with particular local interest should be initiated. Avail of the local information from environmental interest groups. Involve the schools and avail of the tidy towns handbook to help guide you in this regard.

Litter Control:

There is generally a very good standard of litter cleanliness. The many litterbins and the greater national emphasis on litter –as well as your own campaigns, which need to be constantly undertaken, help to lessen the problem. Litter at the Shopping centre areas was noted and some small amounts along the streets here and there

Tidiness:

There is a good standard of tidiness. Some cluttering of signage on shops still remains. The underground cables do much to help in the tidiness category, Further underground cabling hopefully will occur in the older parts of Douglas. The St Patrick's Mills area is a little cluttered.

Residential Areas:

Housing estates are well tended. Working with residents associations helps to improve the standards of estates. Maryborough estate is very well presented and the landscaping at the entrance areas is very effective. The Gartan Estate - the central green area has been allowed to develop to meadow proportions. The many on street residences are important in retaining the community and village aspect of Douglas. The new town houses near the Vet Clinic and the apartments on the opposite side of the street are integrating well into the street.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roundabouts and connecting roadways are well developed, traffic buildup however easily occurs and pedestrians seem to suffer with such traffic, as there are so few safe places to cross the roads. The areas within East Village in particular perhaps could be made pedestrian only not just pedestrian priority. The paved areas within this area are attractive and it would create a pleasant atmosphere. Other areas could also be considered in this regard for parts of the day- similarly part of the shopping centres need designation for pedestrian only access in the interests of safety and comfort.

General Impression:

Douglas offers a very interesting framework of developments. It is very wise that the tidy towns

committee takes such a role as it creates a sense of ownership by the community, which can only be good. The committee can also act as watchdog and as lobbyists in the interest of the community