

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Midleton**

Ref: **541**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **232**

Category: **E**

Date: **07/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	36
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	31	28
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	232	224

Overall Developmental Approach:

Considerable improvements have been achieved in Midleton over the past years and the Tidy Towns Committee can take much credit for their part in the achievements. The original development plan 1997 to 2002 set out to address many issues. These issues are very well documented in the schedule – “Objectives to be achieved 1997 to 2002” submitted with the entry form. This is a very useful document as it also includes who is responsible for the items and the time scale involved. Midleton has changed considerably over the years with the huge increase in building developments. A new plan is now needed to build on the foundation of the previous work.

The Built Environment:

There are many landmark buildings within Midleton which help to define the town. The distillery buildings, courthouse, AIB bank, the three storied terrace in Broderick Street and the many terraces of single storied terraced housing on the roadsides, for example on the New Cork Road. The garda station, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, with its large trees to the entrance St. Colmans Community School, the churches, Owenacurra Centre and the many new apartment developments such as Cor Abbey Court and Mill Race. Business premises in the main street are looking very well and the general presentation standard of most buildings is high. Those still needing upgrading are fewer than ever, although the higher standards pertaining tend to make those requiring attention more noticeable. The old Dairygold premises is a very significant landmark, but not necessarily the most attractive at this stage. The Mill Race development used the old building very effectively for its new

purpose. The new Lidl supermarket development with its attractive landscaped surrounds by the river was noticed. The terrace of colourful houses by the pedestrian path beside the hospital is very appealing.

Landscaping:

There are many fine examples of landscaping in Midleton. The central roundabout is well treated. The attractive small carpark behind with birch trees, well positioned in islands and shrubs at their base, looks well. The small park behind that area was occupied with carnival entertainment - the mature trees there are a good asset. The planting alongside the river is very attractive and gives a very nice setting on that road. Small pockets of planting at various places in the town add colour and interest. The parking bay islands on the road to Jameson Distillery are attractive. The junction for Youghal and Ballycotton is another good example of this. The small Centenary Park by the bridge and Aras Cuimne an Piarasaig are very pleasant green spaces with good mature trees and strolling grounds in the latter. Of particular note is Thomson Street where there has been such a coordinated approach to the entire appearance of the street and the result is stunning. The private house by the bridge at the top of the street contributes greatly with its very attractive garden admired by many on passing by. The many open spaces at entrances to housing estates and internal greens play a very important part in the landscape of the town, especially when so much new housing is being built

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The lagoon area offers lovely potential. A walk along from Broderick Street by the foot bridges and along the path is a lovely break from the central town activities. Bird song was particularly strong along the walk early in the morning. The waterside areas are also attractive and greater access around the water would be beneficial. The development of riverside walks would give a lovely aspect to the town and various entry points for this could be considered. Projects that would energize people and promote a greater appreciation of the wildlife treasures in the vicinity should be actively developed.

Litter Control:

The main streets were very clean following a 7.00am cleaning by the street cleaners. This was very welcome as the litter from the previous night – Saturday night, was considerable. The entrance to Roxboro needs attention to finishing. Litter at the walkways by the lagoon walk from Broderick Street and the small green space at the entrance to this was very bad. Litter along that walk was noted as well. The recycle banks were noted and, hopefully, with continued encouragement and awareness the litter challenges will be met.

Tidiness:

The main street areas, approaches and roundabouts all have a tidy appearance. With many backs of buildings being exposed by the developments of car parks, apartments and business premises this often causes difficulties, as back areas can look unattractive. Midleton has done well in this respect and developments seem to be fitting in very well, The space in behind " Business and Shopping centre" which is beside the bridge opposite the road to the distillery on Main street is very untidy and dirty. Again the old Dairygold premises needs to be addressed. The large site designated for retail/office development beside Lidl is very raw and hopefully this will start and conclude quickly. The road out to the water drainage system property is very untidy at one point. Hopefully underground ducting of cables will be achieved before long in the entire town as the overhead cables are unsightly.

Residential Areas:

There is an enormous range of residential properties in Midleton. The many on street residences are

wonderful as they continue to give life to the town. Many interesting terraces are well maintained and look attractive. Alterations to houses within the terraces should be sensitive to the neighboring style of terrace to keep a unity about these properties. The terrace "Ardan Cluain Molt" is unusual and looks very well, also those on the Ballycotton road and more on the New Cork road. The apartment/town house accommodation that has been developed looks well generally. This is helped frequently by the retention of original mature trees on sites, such as those at the opposite side of Centenary Park. The Castleredmond Court development is attractive and, as a contrast in style, the very well kept three rows of terraced houses on the other side of the street are unique. The many housing estates, Beechwood Court, Brookdale, Lauriston and many more, are well maintained and add to the very good impression of the surrounds of Midleton.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roads are generally in good condition and well marked. There is a good system of road markings and the roundabouts are well laid out with good signage. Roadside verges and walls are cared for. The roadside park with the farm implements is attractive and well tended. A number of new footpaths have been laid and these are welcome.

General Impression:

Midleton has developed very well. The huge amount of housing and apartment developments has created a new style, which is being incorporated very well. Using some of the old buildings and rejuvenating areas keeps a good life in the town. The core of the town, Main Street, continues to make a strong statement. More planning is now needed to follow on the previous achievements.

Second Round Adjudication:

Midleton had a great air of prosperity and vibrancy on this scorching August morning. The town centre was commendably clear of litter, but a few papers were noted along the approach roads. The grassed areas were, for the most part, well maintained, but strimming seemed a little absent in places. The kerb sides and roads generally in the town centre appeared very clean, but in peripheral areas, including a few residential estates and on approach roads weeds were noted. It was wonderful to see, having not been in Midleton for some years, the back areas improving and, more importantly, to see Main street appear not be affected by the newer peripheral developments. Hopefully, the overhead cables on Main street will be removed soon. The AIB bank elegantly signals the start of Main Street and the colourful planting in this general area contributed much to the atmosphere. Several vacant sites and poorly maintained yards/forecourts dotted about the town created a slightly negative impact. The riverside areas were a valuable resource on a very hot day. Perhaps a sculpture might be commissioned for the roundabout at the Whitegate junction on the N25.