

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Minane Bridge**

Ref: **480**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **175**

Category: **A**

Date: **28/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	19
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	175	172

Overall Developmental Approach:

The twelve member tidy towns committee is a sizable number from a population of only one hundred people. Great efforts are evident in the village and credit is due for this despite the difficulties of derelict sites. An overall plan to guide the work of the committee over the next three to five years is now needed. This could be compiled in conjunction with all interested parties – the local authority, school, residents and businesses. With a plan such as this, clear targets could be set, a time frame of work placed against these and progress assessed year by year.

The Built Environment:

The Church is beautifully painted and presented and this makes a major impact in the village. The stonewalls at the bridge and by the church are attractive and form an important local feature. The Bridge itself is a very nice feature and with the landscape work at the church carpark, the view of the bridge is enhanced. The premises De Bhuitleir has been painted well and looks very good. The Dempsey shop appears fine but the amount of clutter outside this of materials takes a little from the shop and one wonders how all this material to be stored outside. The School is in good condition – the roadside wall would benefit from painting now. The Dairygold building is now very unsightly with paint, décor and surrounds looking very neglected. The Community Sports building is in good condition.

Landscaping:

Work at the church carpark and bridge is very attractive and good grassed areas down to the riverside look very well. The timber fence and picnic tables are welcome and the planted trees are making good progress. Containerised planting through the village gives pleasant summer colour. The hanging baskets and containers on the bridge are bright and cheerful. The yellow painted pump adds further colour. The area to the front of Spruce Houses is well treated. The work of clearing the vegetation on the far side of the bridge was also noticed.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Millennium walk is a very attractive strolling area through the forestry. The seating provided and the path makes this a nice place to visit. Helpful information about the variety of wildlife that could be observed here would be welcome. Perhaps some local knowledge could be compiled for this purpose rather than having chart displays that may not relate exactly to this locality. Information of this kind is valuable for passing onto the next generation and older people frequently take such information for granted. The development of a riverside walk would be a really worthwhile project and should be investigated.

Litter Control:

Litter unfortunately, was noted on the Millennium walk which was a pity in such a lovely place. The work of clean ups and making people aware of the need to gather litter is most important and should be continued diligently. Continued vigilance is needed in this regard. The litterbins are well placed. Some litter in the corner of the car park was also noticed.

Tidiness:

Great efforts have been made at the church area and surrounds to present a very tidy appearance. Hopefully the derelict sites will be resolved soon as they occupy such pivotal positions within the village. Attention to the outside road frontage of the GAA grounds would be helpful and also the weediness in the carpark there. The old tennis courts look somewhat neglected. Clutter outside the shop as mentioned above is unhelpful to tidiness.

Residential Areas:

The individual houses along the entrance roads are well taken care of and contribute well to the appearance of the village. The Spruce Grove area also is well tended and the entrance looks well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Some potholes have been filled and there are a number of broken surfaces remaining as well as rough boundaries to the roadsides. A complete resurfacing programme would alleviate all these problems and pressure should be maintained on Local Authorities to remedy this. The roadside verges are attractive with so many wild flowers. Some cutting back of these is needed but this should be done in a sensitive way. The village signs were noted. Overhead cables will hopefully be placed underground in the future and this no doubt would be integrated with a road surfacing programme.

General Impression:

Minane Bridge has made good progress. The challenges of derelict buildings and those needing attention should be faced and resolved with the cooperation of all concerned.

