

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rochestown**

Ref: **114**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **208**

Category: **D**

Date: **28/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	24	25
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	24
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>206</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Rochestown consists of a narrow linear geographic area stretching over a considerable distance. Despite the major housing developments that have taken place, Rochestown has managed to conserve its own identity and credit is due in part to the activities of the tidy towns committee for this. Planning is needed to set targets and agree the goals of the area over the coming years - particularly with the increased accommodation being built and pressure on roads and services,

### The Built Environment:

The new apartment building is changing the face of Rochestown very much and hopefully this can be well integrated into the surroundings. The Cinnamon Cottage building looks very well with its bright paint colouring. The Rochestown Inn as usual looks well cared for. The Rochestown Hotel at the other end of the district is treated very well and is a fine use for this previously religious house. The old railway platform looks well and attracts much interest, the information plaque is very helpful. The petrol filling station occupies a large site with many facilities and fulfills its role well.

### Landscaping:

The roadside from the Hotel to the Hop Island walk forms an important part of the landscape of Rochestown. The many housing estates and boundaries to the roadside contribute well in this

regard, Griselinia hedges are used mainly along the roadside. Consideration of using more colourful hedges as an alternative would be interesting in the long term – flowering hedges would be welcome – Escallonia and Fuchsia, both of which would give a long flowering season through the summer and autumn and so provide a greater interest along the roadsides. The very large copper Beech tree and Plane tree at the entrance to Woodville are magnificent and illustrate the value of even one good mature tree- this is a reminder that the people who planted these two trees could never have hoped to see them come to such maturity – we owe a similar legacy to the next two or three generations. The platform area is well tended and a fantastic interest to have preserved. Many gardens contribute well to the overall landscape of the village.

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

The pond area is interesting and the well cared for grass bank to the approach is pleasant. The roadside up along the Cinnamon House looking towards the river is very disrupted with overgrown vegetation and earth accumulation.. The Hop Island area is very attractive with the easy access of footpath to this location. Parking at the entrance to the beginning of the walk for Hop Island is very difficult with such restricted space and if this could be improved more people would enjoy the visit. The pathway has good viewing of the waterfront - more seats would be appreciated. Also if it were possible to make walkways through the wooded area more interest would be created. The vegetation to either side of the path had been recently cut and the dead grass left on the path. Leaving cutting until later would allow more enjoyment of the wild plants by the path sides. It is understood that Cuthbert's Marsh Project is on hold awaiting the completion of Harty's Quay apartments.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter was noted at the area by the platform – especially around the Bord Gais structure. Litter was also noted on the path at the Hop Island walk. With many visitors it is difficult to keep this area clean but frequent litter cleaning and some reminder notices may help.

### **Tidiness:**

There is a very tidy appearance along the long stretch of road, which constitutes Rochestown. Good clean paths and neatly trimmed hedges characterises the area. The parking of cars at the Public House - Rochestown Inn, is very disorganized and gives an untidy appearance besides causing a hazard for pedestrians. The building construction work at Harty's Quay is causing disruption at present. It is important that a watchful eye is kept on this development so ensure the site and surrounds are fully restored and properly landscaped. Similarly with other housing developments in the area – this could form part of the brief of the tidy towns committee.

### **Residential Areas:**

There is a huge number of very attractively built and landscaped housing estates in the stretch of road forming Rochestown. Remarks concerning the planting of " Real" trees – Beech, Ash, Chestnut and Line and Plane are appropriate here as many large open greens in housing estates would accommodate one or two such trees - while small gardens would be too small for such trees. Attention to detail of kerbside grass weeds and general grass management helps to gives estates a good appearance

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

The road surfaces are well cared for and the extension of footpaths is welcome. The area by the Rochestown Inn as stated above has no footpaths and people are forced to walk either between parked cars or to walk on the grass on the other side of the road. Provision for paths is badly needed her. Crossing the road is extremely hazardous either at the Platform area or at the Hop Island walk and a remedy to this would be helpful.

**General Impression:**

Rochestown offers an unusual combination of assets. The manner in which these are managed is of great advantage both to the local community and to visitors to the area. Forward thinking is very pertinent now as the apartment block at Harty's Quay may herald further developments.