

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonakilty**

Ref: **563**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **267**

Category: **D**

Date: **05/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	47	47
The Built Environment	40	37	37
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	26
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	27	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	35
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>265</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the very detailed information and very well presented laminated map. The reports submitted namely: 'A Vision for Clonakilty' (which includes some excellent work by students and tutors from UCD) 'The Draft Development Plan ' and the ' Draft Fealge River Link' provided an immense amount of information. The 18 areas of action identified in the river link report provides an excellent blue-print for development. There appears to be cross community support for the the committee's efforts and substantial support from the local authority and other statutory agencies.

### The Built Environment:

The main public buildings look very well again, namely the churches, the post office, town council and library.

The credit union, with its unique water feature, is an excellent blend of water and building. This also seems to bring the Fealge River to your attention. Many owners have enhanced their premises with floral decorations -- too many to mention in the confines of this report. Spillers Lane is a nice oasis of calm. The advisory service offered by the town council is paying dividends, particularly in terms of infill development, colour schemes and signage. The old brewery building is very interesting; could it be rejuvenated as a micro-brewery as in other towns? Some buildings in need of attention include Lowney's garage, the former petrol station canopy at Super-Valu, Nuala's Corner Shop and J. Hurley's. The Texaco petrol station near Clonakilty Technical Schools, while improved, also still needs attention. Buildings to impress included Shanley's pub, An Sugan, O'Donovans Hotel and John

Lowney Jewellers. The use of strong, complementary colours is a signature of Clonakilty.

### **Landscaping:**

The Cork Road approach is good, particularly the grotto, and the entrance to the Quality Hotel looks well, as does ' Chateaulin Orchard ' - the adjudicator notes your comments relating to shade here. The area around the playground looks very well kept. The Croppy Road also looks well tended. Hanging basket stands are located strategically in the town and certainly add to its colour. The entry in the Clonakilty Draft Development plan in relation to tree preservation is noted. This should certainly help retain these valuable assets for the town.

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

Certainly, the planning of hedge cutting and similar maintenance to take place in the autumn along with organic weed control is helpful to wildlife species. The proposed introduction of information boards on wildlife should help promote awareness. The planned wildlife tour of Clonakilty Bay sounds a wonderful project and should bring Clonakilty Bay more into the compass of the town.

### **Litter Control:**

This is good and the efforts of the local authority, Tidy Towns Committee, school children and new residents are to be applauded. Clonakilty is a busy town and, therefore, all members of the community must be vigilant, particularly on approach roads.

### **Tidiness:**

The area near Clogheen Industrial Park would need attention. The recycling facilities in the car park are an important asset to the community. The policy in relation to ' no posters ' and keeping advertising hoardings to minimum certainly does remove any clutter from the street scape.

### **Residential Areas:**

This is a strong area for the town with practically all residents playing a role. Many make good use of stone, strong colours or floral decoration. Those to impress (this is not an exhaustive list) include; Redwood Park, the parish field, Woodlands, Casement Park, ' the Miles ' on park road, and houses on Tom Barry Way. The terrace of houses on Molaga Street would need repainting. The presentation of boundary walls, fences and gardens was exceptionally high.

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

The Skibbereen Road looks well, however, there may be too many signs on this approach; the adjudicator counted seven. Could some of these signs be amalgamated? The statue of Michael Collins in Emmet Square is very striking. The Cork approach is nicely landscaped. The Inchadowney approach is good. The new footbridge at the credit union is a beautiful feature. The temporary parking at Lamb Street Lower provides a good overflow for the town. Is it planned to have this on a permanent basis in the future? The road markings in the car park near the credit union would need refreshing.

### **General Impression:**

Clonakilty has harnessed the community spirit of the town and focussed it into physically enhancing and enriching its environs.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

There are large housing developments taking place on both the Skibbereen and Cork sides of the town. Do try to ensure that these are in keeping with the character of the town. The standard of litter control on Second Adjudication Day was good, although a few papers were noted scattered around the town's streets and along the Cork Road. Do ensure you resist the temptation to "gild the lily" by means of excessive floral displays. An emphasis on permanent planting and tree planting is what is required for year round effect. There are a number of advertising hoardings, a practise which should be discouraged. One in particular caught this adjudicator's eye as an adjacent advertising mural was quite faded and flaky. There is an empty building on the square, which looks unfortunate in this prominent location. Hopefully it will be occupied in the not-too distant future. Although the main streets and secondary access areas were generally well presented, there is scope for further development of alleyways and rear areas off the main streets of the town. Clonakilty continues to develop and expand its scope of work in relation to the competition - well done to all concerned!