

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Drimoleague**

Ref: **546**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **196**

Category: **B**

Date: **30/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	196	193

Overall Developmental Approach:

You appear to have a very small Committee of just five people and you are covering a large entry. However the community support appears to be high, and you are working closely with Cork County Council, FÁS and local schools.

The adjudicator is very concerned to note that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted with the entry documentation.

Progress in the competition will be dependent on everyone working towards the same ends. With this in mind you need to prepare a "3 /5 Year rolling Tidy Towns Work Programme". This programme should have the support of the community, local groups other agencies and the County Council. It would therefore guide you Tidy Towns actions for the next three to five years. The Work Programme will detail the Tidy Towns objectives to be achieved by your committee in the years ahead. The preparation of such a Plan that is updated annually is now an essential aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition.

Do keep in mind that what is required is a simple Plan or document that can be prepared by your Committee.

The Built Environment:

The Playground was extremely neat and tidy on adjudication day - it is extremely colourful. The Pitch and Putt is an important facility for the town and again looked really well. However on the short entrance road the concrete walls and post and rail fencing need to be painted. Excellent presentation was noted at the Garda Station and the nearby Methodist Church. However at the Church on the Dunmanway road the road boundary wall needs to be re-painted. Good flower displays were an attraction at All Saints Church, but the metal uprights for the hanging baskets need to be painted.

Through Drimoleague good use is made of strong contrasting colours. Indeed this welcome development is found in many towns and villages in West Cork.

The Junior National School is attractively presented, and the nearby Famine Memorial is an interesting reminder of some of the history of the area. However this important Memorial is slightly overgrown.

You have referred to the old Railway Station Yard and area in the application Form. The old Railway Station perhaps has potential for development. It would be a pity if the building and all memories of the railway were to be lost for ever. The adjudicator totally supports the need for early important decisions in regard to this property.

In general terms the total yard area needs up-grading in terms of grass maintenance, planting, painting of walls and white lining of the Car Park area.

Landscaping:

The planting on the Bantry and Dunmanway roads is noted, and the newly completed flower beds. The flower bed on the Dunmanway approach is especially impressive and is being well maintained. The Grotto near here also looked well and the grass in front was neatly trimmed. Attractive hanging baskets were noted by the new terrace of houses in High Street, but the metal uprights need to be painted.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Have you considered carrying out a simple local survey of the wildlife and flora to be found in your area? The results of this could be made available to the public through the use of large illustrated plaques that can be mounted in a few appropriate locations. The river is an important amenity but unfortunately on adjudication litter was noted in the river in a few places.

Litter Control:

Some fly-posting was evident and this is an unfortunate development. Litter control in the town centre was very good and your marks under this category are above average.

Tidiness:

Opposite the Southern Pumps Ltd premises a section of post and rail fencing is in need of painting to match the other similar fencing at this location. The long GAA boundary wall looks very drab and needs to be painted in an appropriate colour. Some untidy areas were noted beyond the Junior National School. The area of the Tennis Courts and the old Railway Station looked quite untidy and the adjudicator knows that your Committee are working on this problem. Some litter in the river has been mentioned elsewhere in this Report.

Residential Areas:

Some road boundary walls need to be painted or re-painted. Some excellent presentations were noted on the Bantry / Skibbereen approach - good mature private landscaping. Closer in to the town this approach is very impressive with the mature avenue of trees and smaller shrubs. On the

Dunmanway side of town extensive private landscaping was noted. Up past the Junior National School some good private landscaping schemes were noted. Overall the majority of private houses in the area are excellently presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Some work is required before the 30 MPH signs on the Bantry / Skibbereen approach. The Castledonovan approach road was poorly presented with nettles, briars, and weeds out of control. On some approach roads there is a lack of definition between the edge of the verge and the edge of the roadway. Kerbing would resolve this visual difficulty and you might discuss with Cork County Council. The Dunmanway approach roads is wide and impressive. However the recent work on the verge on the left on the approach to Drimoleague needs attention - is it to be re-grassed as a verge (ideal) or tarred to widen the road?

General Impression:

Good work is being done by the Committee and the Community with the support agencies. Do get the Plan underway as it will be of great help to your Committee.