

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunbeacon**

Ref: **545**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **143**

Category: **A**

Date: **28/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	
The Built Environment	40	17	
Landscaping	40	17	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	
Litter Control	40	23	
Tidiness	20	10	
Residential Areas	30	17	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	
General Impression	10	5	
TOTAL MARK	300	143	

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Dunbeacon to the Tidy Towns Competition and wish your five person Committee every possible success in the future. The entry area as indicated on your Map covers a very wide area. Perhaps for 2004 you might consider whether it would be wise to reduce the area that you are covering so that you can concentrate your efforts more.

The Map was of great help to the adjudicator and all points that you highlighted were visited on adjudication day.

Progress in the competition will be dependent on everyone working towards the same ends. With this in mind you must 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 your 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 your Committee can prepare themselves in consultation with the local community.

The Tidy towns Handbook has been issued by the Department of the Environment to all Tidy towns Committees. This is a highly useful document which is of great help both to established Tidy Towns

Committees and to all new entrants. It is divided into a series of seven Action Sheets that cover all aspects of the Competition. It might be most useful for the committee to run a series of seminar evenings based on the contents of this Tidy Towns Handbook.

The Built Environment:

It would be great if your Committee could resolve the issue of the old School and bring it back into useful use. Perhaps it may have potential as a community facility? The old Water Pump has been most attractively restored, t as will the area of the old milk collection point when it is landscaped. The old castle ruin is of interest. Perhaps it may be possible to erect an information plaque about the castle in some safe area. The Church and boundary walls will need to be re-painted if possible in the next year or so.

Landscaping:

The work at the cemetery was examined and this has obviously been a very big undertaking for the community. Some signposts from the Church should be provided as it is a little difficult to find. This is obviously quite an old cemetery and it is so good to see the restoration of pathways and grass seeding under way. Turning of cars here is obviously a problem at a funeral and perhaps this is an issue that you should consider in the future.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your approach to wildlife makes sense. However it would be of interest to provide a plaque about local wildlife and plants perhaps at the area of the old milk collection point. You will probably need to carry out a simple local survey first to see what wildlife and plants are in your area. The path to the foreshore might be sign-posted. The shore area is quite attractive with the river coming in from the left. The cut branches should be removed from the pathway and perhaps the abandoned trailer in the field on the left on the way down to the shore can be removed.

Litter Control:

Litter control in the area was quite good on adjudication day. The litter rota is noted and this is an excellent was of making sure that someone is watching out for litter on a continuous basis.

Tidiness:

Tidying up of approach roads is necessary and this will be covered elsewhere in the report. The milk collection point is an area that needs attention but the adjudicator is aware of your plans for this area. Where possible field gates might be painted using bright colours and in this way a feature can be made of them.

Residential Areas:

The houses in the area were very well presented and in many cases landscaping of a high standard was noted. The houses near the antique shop are good examples of this, as is the yellow property near the path down to the shore. On the Schull road further excellent presentations were noted.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads all need attention in terms of trimming of the sides of roadside banks. In some cases the narrow verge needs to be cut also. It is appreciated that you have a number of miles of banks to consider and perhaps this issue should be discussed with Cork County Council.

General Impression:

Dunbeacon is a welcome new entrant to the Competition. You will find that the Work Programme suggested at the beginning of this report will be of major help to you and will keep the work of the Committee clearly focused on your chosen priority projects.