

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Durrus Village**

Ref: **539**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **194**

Category: **B**

Date: **28/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	25
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	194	190

Overall Developmental Approach:

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 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 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 should be prepared by your Committee.

It is encouraging to see the level of support that you are receiving from Cork County Council and FAS. Likewise the involvement of the local School in your activities is important. Hopefully some of the pupils will become future Committee members.

The Built Environment:

Your interesting comments on the changing nature of the village have been noted, and this is an issue that must be reflected in your Work Programme mentioned above. Indeed it is encouraging to see the amount of development that is presently under way. Hopefully the plans for all the new housing have included appropriate landscaping plans also. Many of the properties in Durrus make a good use of bright attractive colours. Both churches are very attractively presented with regular maintenance of the landscaped areas. Indeed the Church of Ireland church is a very attractive stone building. On the Ballycommane road the cream coloured building is in need of painting as are the boundary walls associated with this property. At the School very attractive naturally occurring plants were noted in the high stone retaining wall.

Landscaping:

Landscaping at St. James Church is impressive and this building has a fine location. The additional flower tubs on the Kilcrohane have been noted also. The use of hanging baskets and flower tubs in carefully selected places adds an interesting splash of colour to any town or village. However do make sure that this is not overdone. You should be using hanging baskets and tubs to help bring out the character of your village. An excellently landscaped area was noted on the Bantry approach road at the large village sign. However the two tall poles holding the hanging baskets should be painted - either matt black or a strong colour that will stand out.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The estuary area is an excellent area for wildlife especially at low water. There is an interesting resource here that does not appear to have been investigated. 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.

Litter Control:

Some litter was noted on the Ballycrommane road. Some back areas need attention and a general tidying up. Perhaps some of these areas can be screened from public view. In general litter control in the village centre was quite good.

Tidiness:

The kerb-side weeds campaign has been noted and with one or two exceptions this campaign appears to be working well. Two derelict buildings were noted and hopefully these can receive early attention from the owners. The roof of the corrugated iron building on the Kilcrohane approach might be painted green. Some fly-posting was evident on adjudication day and this is to be discouraged. A few projecting advertising signs were noted and one has to ask if these are really necessary. The abandoned car on the Ballycommane road should be removed by the owner.

Residential Areas:

A lot of new housing development was noted and this is to be welcomed, however the provision of appropriate landscaping by the various developers is of crucial importance. On the Kilcrohane approach road good use of colour has been made by some property owners. Stone walls and quality landscaping combine here to give a visually effective result. The restoration of a two storey stone house was noted and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing the finished result. The terrace of houses beyond the School again makes good use of colour but incidental grass growth here needs early attention.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Kilcrohane approach road the banks on the left hand side require trimming, and one of the 30 MPH plaques is damaged. The area between the 30 PMH signs and the smaller village sign on the Bantry approach needs attention. The roadside verge and banks here are a little overgrown. Some trimming of the banks further in on the right hand side is also necessary. Do remember that all raked grass must be removed immediately after cutting. A lot of work is required on the Ballycommane road. Rather severe cutting of the vertical roadside banks has taken place on the Goleen approach road. Trimming is normally better than severe cutting.

General Impression:

Good work for the competition is taking place in Durrus and congratulations to the Committee and the residents for what has been achieved. Do remember to organise your Plan for 2004.