

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Owenahincha**

Ref: **762**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **159**

Category: **A**

Date: **01/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	22
The Built Environment	40	20	20
Landscaping	40	22	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	26	27
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	16	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	21
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	159	157

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator notes that you have been quite successful in raising sponsorship for your Tidy Towns activities - well done! Your work with the County Council, FASA and West Cork Tourism is important.

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 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 own Committee can prepare. It should cover the period 2003-2005.

It is accepted that a major problem for your area is the major increase in summer population from about 200 up to 2,500.

The Built Environment:

At the car park of the Owenahincha Hotel some landscaping here would help to improve the overall presentation. Semi-mature tree planting (salt tolerant trees) and the lining of the car park would be possible actions for consideration. Also the provision of a road boundary wall with separate entrance and exit areas would be an improvement. Some road boundary walls in this area need to be painted, Again at the apartment block landscaping is recommended. The fencing here needs some repairs and repainting of the fence is also required. At the Caravan Park near the apartments the railing needs to be painted and grass cut. The other large building in this area also needs to be painted. At Hayes Caravan park the long stone road boundary wall is attractive. However some internal fencing needs repair and painting. Attractive planting was noted at the entrance to this property. The stone estate house is a most attractive property and it is good to see it inhabited.

Landscaping:

At the entrance road from the N.71 beautiful landscaping was noted with attractive planting and very well maintained grass areas. The two large stones here are very effective. Overall a most impressive introduction to Owenahincha.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Little seems to have been done in regard to Wildlife. 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 cliff walk is a beautiful experience with extensive views out to Galley Head and back towards Rosscarbery. However at the entrance to this walk some tidying up is required and long grass needs attention and the pile of gravel should be removed. A few fencing repairs are also required.

Litter Control:

Your litter control programme is noted. Some litter was noted along the road at the eastern end of Owenahincha. However in the grass above the beach and on the beach a lot of litter was noted. Only a little of this appeared to be brought in by the sea.

Tidiness:

An untidy site was noted near the apartment block. Work required at the start of the cliff walk has been detailed above. Grass and weed growth at the base of road boundary walls was noted in a number of areas, and some of these walls need to be painted. There are also some incidental open spaces with long grass that look quite untidy.

Residential Areas:

The Cois Ferraige planned development is noted and hopefully this and the other new development at Sandycove Beach Villas will include appropriate landscaping plans. A high standard of landscaping was noted at a number of private properties. One that caught the eye was the property at the junction of the cul-de-sac with the main road. The profusion of colour here is really most attractive. At the eastern end of Owenahincha some of the properties need to be re-painted.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach from the N.71 looked really well and fine stones walls are one of the features of this approach to Owenahincha. However on the N.71 the grass at the Owenahincha sign needs to be

cut. Also on this approach the banks have been cut but the cut grass has not been removed. Along the cul-de sac road some work is required on the verge on the sea side and again cut grass must be taken away immediately after cutting. In the centre of Owenahincha the grass banks need to be trimmed on a regular basis. The timber fencing needs to be repaired and painted. On the Ratahbarry approach work is also needed on the banks and verges - slight trimming would make a big difference to the overall appearance.

General Impression:

The change in summer population provides problems from a Tidy Towns point of view that other centres do not have. Do try and get the Action Plan up and running before the end of the year - it will be of great help to your planning.