

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rosscarbery**

Ref: **514**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **224**

Category: **B**

Date: **01/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	30
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	22
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>217</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank your Committee for the very comprehensive documentation submitted with the entry form - the Plan and Maps. All were most useful on adjudication day. For a small Committee of just 12 members you are doing a lot of most valuable work for Rosscarbery in association with the community and appropriate agencies. The level of local cooperation seems to be very high and you have established very good local communications through the Newsletter. It is essential that everyone is aware of what work you have in hand.

### The Built Environment:

The provision of signs in Irish and English is strongly welcomed as a contribution to the preservation of the Irish language in the area. The plans to provide signs at heritage sites in the town and area is a very good initiative and hopefully it will be in place for the 2004 Competition. Your involvement in the Cathedral restoration project is also noted. Stone walls and old stone buildings are one of the two key elements in Rosscarbery, the other is water. So many of the stone buildings and other buildings are excellently maintained and this is a credit to the owners. Your awareness of the eco-systems of stone walls is commendable and the fact that you are using best practise is strongly welcomed. The area map and angling bay at the Quay Garden is are useful facilities for visitors. Of all the buildings in Rosscarbery, the Cathedral is the most important. It is good to see that the restoration project is now at Planning Permission stage.

## **Landscaping:**

You have made excellent progress on many landscaping projects and the standard of maintenance without exception is very high. Congratulations to all involved in this. The planting of the new trees in the Square is excellent as part of the renewal programme for that area. The flower tubs, window boxes and hanging baskets here provide a really good colourful display. Do make sure however that the provision of hanging baskets is not overdone. The raised beds look very well as the two landscaped areas on the Skibbereen road out of the Square. Newtown Park is excellently presented as is the Quay Garden which is really outstanding. Again at the junction where Mill Road meets the N.71 the landscaped area with the neatly cut grass and fencing is a fine example of how landscaping should be maintained.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Rosscarbery has a supreme opportunity to make wildlife a key attraction for the town, and you are moving rapidly in that direction. The four plaques are very interesting and very well framed and mounted. Your choice of locations is most appropriate. The concept of a wildlife and historic trail is excellent and hopefully this is on the way to becoming a reality. The Sli na Salinte Trail is another great initiative for Rosscarbery.

## **Litter Control:**

Litter control in the town centre was very good on adjudication day. Your involvement in the County Council litter challenge is obviously bringing good results. Likewise the Gren Schools initiative is a really good concept. Some litter was noted on Cloch Dubha road, and at the well on the road by the Lagoon leading to the playground. Other occasional littered areas were noted.

## **Tidiness:**

A small hut was noted in a field on the Clonakilty approach just before the start of the Causeway. Hopefully this is a temporary structure. At the GAA field the long concrete road boundary wall is in need of repair and painting. Can you try and get permission to paint field gates a bright colour? At the Tennis Courts the wire needs to be replaced or repaired as the damaged areas look quite untidy. Opposite the Catholic church the open space with the damaged post and rail fencing needs some attention. The Bring Centre was neat and tidy.

## **Residential Areas:**

Practically all private houses were well presented and very many have elaborate mature landscaped areas. Mill Road is an excellent example of this. Many of these properties appear to have been painted recently and the overall effect is one that demonstrates great commitment by individuals to their environment. In a few cases unpainted properties should be painted. A use of bright colours was noted and this is appropriate. At the Celtic Cottages which were well presented the signs is damaged and needs to be repaired or replaced.

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

Much work has obviously gone into the presentation of nearly all approach roads. The Clonakilty and Skibbereen approaches are impressive. However it was noted on a number of roads that cut grass has not been raked and taken away. You have set fine standards elsewhere in regard to the presentation of grassed areas and approach roads should have the same level of attention. The Causeway grass on the top of the stone wall should be removed and also the weeds that are visible over the top of the wall. However Serpentine Road is very overgrown, and on the Glandore road bad weed and grass growth was noted on the right just after the speed limit signs.

**General Impression:**

Rosscarbery is a very impressive and interesting town. In the view of the adjudicator it has the potential do do really well in the Tidy Towns Competition in the years ahead given the existing level of commitment from all parties that is evident. Well done to everyone!