

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Timoleague**

Ref: **527**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **233**

Category: **B**

Date: **06/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	28	28
Litter Control	40	32	30
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	22
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	233	227

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your completed application form, well drawn map, aerial photo and development plan. As advised in last year's report, it may be a good idea to phase your project over a three to five year period. This is the last year of your five year plan originated in 1999 - phasing should be done for the new plan. Keep up your close liaison with the local school children.

The Built Environment:

The abbey continues to impress and the provision of upgraded floodlighting must make it even more impressive in the evening. The RC and COI buildings continue to look well maintained. Your plans are noted regarding upgrading the public toilets. Canon Fleming Hall looks well. The community centre with its tennis court, gym, sauna and other indoor facilities must be the envy of other villages. Work is in progress on the ELT building; this is a very attractive building and should look well when restored. Many commercial premises would need repainting and some floral decoration. The petrol station and shop at the junction for Dunworley is in need of major improvement.

Landscaping:

The town park area near the abbey looks well and your plans are noted in relation to its development and planting of specimen trees (project 7). The choice of specimen trees for each site

should be carefully considered - unsuitable trees can have a negative impact. Native species should be used if possible. Both church grounds are very well tended. St. Patrick's Grotto is a beautiful addition to the village. The plans for the parochial field are also noted (project 6).

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Seven Heads walk is beautiful and the new pedestrian pathway linking the village to it is commended.

The informative map board in the village is of great benefit to visitors. There was an abundance of sea bird life in Courtmacsherry Bay and this, combined with Mullet swimming and feeding under the bridges, gives a very good impression. The ducks were not observed in the lagoon; they may have been feeding elsewhere. For further information on this category, the committee should consult the Conversation Volunteers of Ireland leaflet entitled 'Developing Community Environmental Projects'.

Litter Control:

Litter seems to be being kept well in check. The assistance of Foróige and the school children is having a major impact. Please also advise next year on any measures being undertaken to promote anti-litter awareness in the community.

Tidiness:

The plans to tidy the wood road area near the church are noted; this will greatly improve this area. There is an absence of kerb side weed. It may be a good idea for the village to seek recycling facilities for the village as this will help foster environmental awareness.

Residential Areas:

Private housing is very well presented with the use of bold strong colours and many using floral decoration to enhance their appearance. The houses at Chapel Avenue, the Strand area and Abbey Street looked very well indeed. Boundary walls, hedgerows and gardens looked very well tended in the village. There are some new houses being built near the new road which is encouraging.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Margins/hedgerows were being cut on the Clonakilty approach on the day of adjudication. The other main approaches looked well. The erection of street names is a welcomed development. The new road surface and pathway to link to the Seven Heads walk was much admired. The wood sculpture and the story behind it is very interesting. Traffic signs appear in good order. The old lathe is very interesting and serves as a reminder of the old railway line. Your comments relating to the siting of a viewing area are noted.

General Impression:

The village has a very integrated presentation and the higher areas of Chapel Hill and the RC church integrate very well with the Strand area. The abbey gives the village a great sense of history and it would be great to have guided tours of this.

Second Round Adjudication:

The adjudicator was pleased to note the distinct improvements that had taken place in the village since last having the pleasure to visit Timoleague. Buildings were, for the most part, brightly painted. Do ensure that render is not removed from vernacular street buildings to reveal the stonework below. These buildings were intended to be rendered, and such action is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view, but may also lead to practical problems of water

penetration. Discourage large plastic signs and encourage their replacement with ones of a more traditional timber variety. The standard of litter control was very good, with little being evident on Second Adjudication Day - some was noted in the vicinity of the abbey. The central pivotal space in the main street sported a new sculpture which provides a much needed focal point. The petrol station adjacent to the bridge looked rather neglected on this approach. Fuchsia bushes to the waterside walk along the old railway track provided a welcome splash of colour! As previously stated, Timoleague has made great progress over the last number of years-keep up the good work!