

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Toormore**

Ref: **476**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **182**

Category: **A**

Date: **29/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	20
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	22	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	18
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	182	175

Overall Developmental Approach:

Toormore is a very attractive village where the dominant features are the Strand, beautiful stone walls and Daiseys everywhere.

The adjudicator would like to thank you for the documentation and maps submitted with your entry form. This was all most useful on adjudication day. You have a very small Committee but you are clearly focused on what you want to achieve for Toormore. You are working closely with Cork County Council, West Cork LEADER and the Clair Programme and this involvement will bring important benefits. You are putting a strong emphasis on the archaeological and historical heritage of the area and this is very strongly welcomed.

The adjudicator notes 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 can be prepared by your Committee in consultation with the County Council and your local community. In all the Plan should run to no more than 5/6 pages.

The Built Environment:

The Church of Ireland church is a beautiful building in such a marvellous location. The grass area in front helps to set off the building. The situation in regard to the shed at the junction has been noted and hopefully re-development / re-roofing will take place shortly. The area of the Restaurant was admired but the boundary walls here are in need of re-painting. The trees here add much to the overall appearance of the property. The Post Office was well presented though re-painting will probably be required sometime in 2004.

Landscaping:

The newly planted hedgerow at the green area will look well as it begins to mature, and the native tree planting programme is appropriate. The green area has got considerable potential and the presentation of this area can be improved. For example the grass at the kerbs does not appear to have been cut and weed growth was noted where the kerbs meet the road surface. Perhaps some semi-mature tree planting in this area may be a possibility. The Water Pump is an interesting pointer to the past but it needs to be painted a brighter colour so that it will stand out. There is a small open space on the left just before the Restaurant. This area may have potential for some simple landscaping.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Toormore has got outstanding potential to make a lot out of the wildlife in the Strand area. You have suggested that you will carry out some research and this is indeed the correct way to proceed. A local Survey will establish what wildlife and flora are in the area. The next step would be to try and provide a large water-proof display board to illustrate the survey findings. A good location for this board would be at the car park near the Church.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent on adjudication day, but some minor pieces of litter were noted in the car park. The litter control rota is obviously working very well.

Tidiness:

Your adjudicator agrees that the storage of gravel in the car park is a major problem. On the day of adjudication there was quite a large volume of gravel stored here and it detracts very much from the initial impression of Toormore as you arrive from the Ballydehob side. The graffiti on the village sign here should be removed. Weed growth was noted at the base of the low stone wall opposite the Church and further along this wall towards the road junction. You might see if you can get permission to paint all field gates a bright colour.

Residential Areas:

All private houses were well presented. The Stone House caught the eye as did the white house just on the left on the Goleen approach.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The new road and path to the Strand area have been noted and these projects are most successful.

On the Ballydehob approach some trimming of banks is required. The concrete post and rail fencing in the area of the road junction would look much better if painted - perhaps matt black. The weed growth here needs to be removed and the narrow verge cut on a frequent basis. The Goleen approach road was very well presented and creates a great first impression of Toormore. On the approach from Bantry some work is again necessary on the road banks. Briars should also be removed.

General Impression:

Toormore is a really delightful village with a very strong archaeological and historical heritage. The Work Programme or Plan will be a great help to your Committee in the planning of your annual work. Well done on what you have achieved.