

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Union Hall**

Ref: **508**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **210**

Category: **A**

Date: **30/06/0203**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	
The Built Environment	40	31	
Landscaping	40	26	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	
Litter Control	40	28	
Tidiness	20	11	
Residential Areas	30	25	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	
General Impression	10	7	
TOTAL MARK	300	210	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Union Hall back to the Competition after your absence over the past two years. It is really great to have such a beautiful town as Union Hall back in the Competition. It is noted that your Committee does not receive sponsorship, and hopefully this situation will change as people see the results of all your good work.

Your 2003-2005 Plan is a very good one. In the view of the adjudicator you have set realistic targets that can be achieved over the next three years. The map was most useful and all points on your map were visited on adjudication day.

The Built Environment:

The plans for the new children's play area are noted as is the objective to build a playschool for the area. Your plans for Pitch & Putt will be strongly welcomed by the community and visitors alike. In these plans you have excellent objectives that hopefully will be realised in full. The Pier area was quite tidy and this is commendable given that it is a busy commercial area. Some piles of sand and gravel and some weed growth was noted in this area. The Catholic Church by the Grotto would be improved by painting if this is possible, The Main Street area has some excellently presented buildings and this part of the village does retain a strong sense of character. The Rowing Club is a beautifully presented building and like other buildings in the town makes appropriate use of natural stone.

The backs of many buildings are visible from the Causeway. Therefore these areas need the same attention as the more obvious front areas to the street or roadway.

Landscaping:

A very large open space was noted just below the Catholic Church. Grass has been cut but not raked away properly. This area has the potential to be a beautifully landscaped spot highly visible from the main road. However grass has to be cut on a very regular basis to avoid the burnt out brown appearance on adjudication day. Some of the smaller landscaped area in the town need to be cut again on a frequent basis. However these areas do have an attractive green grass colour. Excellent landscaping was noted at Ardagh House and the landscaping at the road junction near here is visually effective.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The small round information plaques on the bird life of the area are extremely interesting. 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:

Your litter clean up programmes are obvious! -well done. Some litter was noted at the Keelbeg / Main Street junction.

Tidiness:

The wire surrounding the Tennis Courts is badly damaged and will need renewal. Watch out for grass and weed growth at the base of walls as this can be quite unsightly. This problem was noted on the Keelbeg road. Two untidy field entrances were noted on the Keelbeg approach road just after the new terraced houses now under construction. You should see if you can get permission to paint all field gates. One derelict property was noted near the Pier and hopefully there may be plans at some time in the future to re-develop this property. An untidy overgrown space was noted just to one side of the Grotto and this needs urgent attention. The Grotto itself looked well. Weed growth was noted and the Tennis Courts and at the nearby Toilets area. Storage of retail goods on the pavement was noted. This looks untidy but above all can cause difficulty for the disabled.

Residential Areas:

Many houses have been newly painted and look really well. Some fine properties with excellently landscaped gardens were noted in the Keelbeg area. Hopefully the new houses under construction here will include appropriate landscaping plans. A small row of stone faced houses near the Pier particularly caught the eye. The landscaping here is simple but very effective. On the Skibbereen approach past the Catholic Church some of the terraced houses are in need of re-painting.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Fine stone walls are a feature of the Keelbeg approach though weed and grass growth at the base of walls was noted here. The nettles and long grass on top of the stone wall near the new terraced houses need to be removed. On the Skibbereen approach road through the Main Street little work appears to have been done on the banks on the approach. The Leap approach is delightful with a spectacular display of Foxgloves and Ferns. The Skibbereen approach past the Union Hall Smoked Fish premises needs a lot of work as banks are overgrown.

General Impression:

Union Hall is a delightful area and it is great to have you back in the Competition. You have excellent plans for the future, and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing the results of these plans in future years.