

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Boherbue**

Ref: **580**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **206**

Category: **B**

Date: **30/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	32	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	30	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>200</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission and details of your work programme for 2004. You did not enclose a five-year plan and we are unaware if you have a programme for this period - if not, it is suggested that one be drawn up as a matter of priority. We note you have a membership of thirty five which is way above average and reflects well on the community spirit of the area. We would welcome a more detailed sketch map for adjudication. We also note you have the Duhallow IRD office in the village, so you should be able to gain great benefit by liaising with this organisation.

### The Built Environment:

The first impression of the village is one of rich and varied colour and this is commendable. Painting is strong in the area and many people have worked hard to present their premises to a high standard. The influence of former creamery glory days is very much in evidence and we note that these buildings are now experiencing change of usage. This is in line with all other centres, but you have done well to prevent them from deteriorating. An Scoil Chuimsitheach is superb and provides an inviting introduction to the village from this approach. The landscaping here is a model for others to pursue. The church is attractive but it's grounds are in need of some landscaping: could you apply a scheme of landscaping similar to that at the cemetery, it would have a dramatic effect and be compatible with the rest of the landscaping in the village. Well done on the National School, which is bright and neat. Shopfronts that looked well included: Murphy's Bar, Murphy's Pharmacy, B.A. O Connor and Credit Union. An Post is a disappointment and needs a new sign. O'Keefe's Bar

should consider changing their sign in order to enhance the building.

### **Landscaping:**

This is one of your strong points and the amount of work involved here is acknowledged. We note you won an endeavour last year, so this will surely act as a stimulus for further progress. The landscaping on the approach roads is praiseworthy and provides a good first impression to people like this adjudicator making a first visit to Boherbue. The treatment of the railway sleepers offers a recycling link with the past and provides attractive colour along this entrance. Well done to all the housing estates who take control and maintain landscaping to such a high standard. We notice some excellent individual effort also, in front of a private house on the approach from the cemetery. The square is attractive and well complemented with a plethora of window boxes, hanging baskets and some tubs from commercial outlets. The feature at the village pump is attractive.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

You have plans for increasing your marks in this section and we wish you well. We urge you to work closely with the schools and perhaps organise a survey to identify the wildlife species of the area: this might then lead to the erection of a display board which will benefit visitors and locals alike. Further guidance is available in the Tidy Towns Handbook.

### **Litter Control:**

Well done on your litter control, and congratulations to all the champions in this area. The village was without any serious presence of litter. Litter is everybody's business and involving the community in your efforts is the way forward.

### **Tidiness:**

You have some dereliction problems and these are causing untidiness. The garage opposite the Garda Station is poor and needs a clean up. Other areas of untidiness relate to poorly presented boundary walls and also some farm gates needing painting. The gate to the well presented handball alley needs painting. The two derelict buildings on the Mallow approach are keeping your marks down in this section. These buildings are quite large and very prominent.

### **Residential Areas:**

You have scored well in this section as housing estates are well kept and some individuals excel in presentation. We suggest you erect a name identity on each housing estate as this would be helpful for visitors while also strengthening a community's sense of place. We notice a good deal of chainlink fencing and we would discourage its use in future: better still to replace it with a hedge or stone wall. The lengthy thatched house is unique and undergoing development. We applaud the use of timber sash windows and would hope that the occupants will landscape it appropriate to its character.

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

Road structure is good and well defined. Traffic is quite busy and at times appears to travel too fast through the village - perhaps you could bring this to the attention of your local authority and officials. On the approach by the Comprehensive school we noticed some very untidy back areas behind some private houses: could the owners be encouraged to screen some of these areas? Aras an Phiarsaigh should be freshly painted in a different colour. There is an untidy site opposite the national school. The GAA complex is very unfinished and some landscaping would improve it dramatically.

**General Impression:**

It was a delight to visit Boherbue and witness first hand the great work in progress. As mentioned there is a great air of colour in and around the village. Your challenge now is to tackle some of the black spots, stick to an agreed plan, continue to liaise with the local authority and bring the community with you in your endeavours. Well done on a good performance.