

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Charleville**

Ref: **732**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **199**

Category: **D**

Date: **29/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	
The Built Environment	40	29	
Landscaping	40	29	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	
Litter Control	40	33	
Tidiness	20	11	
Residential Areas	30	25	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	
General Impression	10	6	
TOTAL MARK	300	199	

Overall Developmental Approach:

We welcome you back to the Tidy Towns Competition and wish you well on your re-entry. We would have welcomed more detail on your activities and a map of the town would have been very beneficial to the adjudication. We are also unaware if you are working to a development plan aimed at enhancing the town and involving the community and various agencies in a coordinated way. We hope you will address these points for next year. With a committee of just ten it is unrealistic for such an enormous task to be achieved by so few on their own - help and support of others will lighten your workload and speed up the achievement of your goals.

The Built Environment:

One's first impression of Charleville is the great amount of distinctive 19th century buildings in the main street. More than most towns, these buildings are of high quality and feature some attractive architectural features, especially stone and plaster work. However, on closer examination we note that many of these buildings have been receiving inappropriate treatment and damaging development. We refer to the plethora of pvc windows replacing the old sash windows and much of the signage is not in keeping with the character of the building. Public buildings are well presented and the church which dominates the town has now been further enhanced by an attractive water feature in front. We commend the following as a sample of well presented buildings: AIB, Bank of Ireland, Kennedy's, The Forge and the Credit Union. We note the former plaster work of Imperial House which was obviously splendid in its day. The Community Centre is attractive but needs an

identity. The library is an attractive building but needs a proper sign and the entrance to it should be improved: one is met with a maze of notices instead of an attractive entry.

Landscaping:

Many approach roads have good landscaping and many garages in particular are working hard to present a colourful image. We note that some tree planting of former years is now in need of attention and some trees need replacing. We read with interest that a new development is to take place at the Town Park and we look forward to its completion. The monument beside the library is attractive but should be landscaped and presented to a higher standard, the inscription also needs refurbishing. Well done on the scout unit which is nicely presented. Could the scouts landscape it and maintain it to a high standard? Many premises have attractive displays of window boxes, hanging baskets and some tubs, and we commend them for their efforts in this section.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We would urge you to contact some wildlife enthusiasts from the IWC and get advice on how to promote wildlife in the area. Perhaps you could suggest a schools project to survey the local prevalent wildlife and this in turn might lead to an illustrated display board in the town park.

Litter Control:

Litter control on the principal streets was good and litter was being picked up on adjudication day. We welcome the new seating and the provision of litter bins throughout the town and hope they will be used and well maintained. In general litter control was good. All the schools were visited and litter control was good at each building.

Tidiness:

Your biggest single problem is without doubt dereliction which ultimately leads to untidiness. On each street we encountered derelict buildings and neglected open spaces. This is really a problem for owners and the local authorities who now have special powers to deal with dereliction. The aim here should be to restore and refurbish in a manner keeping with the character of the town. Ideally, you should concentrate a programme of infill for house building: we liked the scheme at Ivy Close which should enhance this part of the town when landscaped.

Residential Areas:

You have many housing estates and for the most part they are well presented. Many need attention to boundary walls and some would benefit from fresh painting. We also note the small signs identifying the various estates and wondered why they are in English only? Upper Rathgoggin Height was well presented. We would suggest that all housing estates should be identified with appropriate signs.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road structure, layout and maintenance is excellent and the approach roads are very good, especially the two principal approaches. We also note the traffic calming efforts and the allied landscaping in each case. Your major problem here is the enormous amount of traffic, heavy and light, that seems to be continually passing through. Many back areas are very untidy and we would remind you that these areas are a core part of adjudication.

General Impression:

Charleville has potential to be a high scorer in the competition. You urgently need a 3 - 5 year

development plan aimed at improving the appearance of the town and solving the problems listed above. We propose you concentrate on the main street and work outwards. We also suggest you contact your local authority and other agencies: e.g., commercial, tourism, sporting and social and get everyone participating in your efforts. Successful tidy towns is all about partnership and community effort. We wish you well for 2005.