

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Freemount**

Ref: **689**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **162**

Category: **A**

Date: **16/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	
The Built Environment	40	24	
Landscaping	40	19	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	
Litter Control	40	17	
Tidiness	20	10	
Residential Areas	30	19	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	
General Impression	10	6	
TOTAL MARK	300	162	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Your participation in the Competition again this year is very welcome. Thank you for compiling and submitting "Freemount Village Tidy Towns 2004 Five Year Plan" together with map. This is a comprehensive outline with photographs of your approach to the Competition from now. By working now on a priority basis it is hoped that progress will be made. This effort will need the support of the entire community and the relevant agencies if it is to succeed - the generous contribution from the Freemount Community Development is a good start.

The Built Environment:

The Community Centre premises is a large and prominent building situated in the outskirts of the village. The building itself is reasonably well presented. It is suggested that an appropriate sign or plaque for the premises be put in place. The Heritage Centre is an attractively restored old school-house - here too it is suggested that an appropriate sign identifying it as the village's heritage centre be erected. The National School and adjoining grounds were neatly presented. The church which is a prominent building in the village is well presented. As identified in your plan the old creamery building is a problem and obviously some action needs to be taken in relation to it. The old Mill is also a building which will need to be dealt with. The Water Works premises is also in need of urgent attention as it looks quite unsightly.

Landscaping:

The landscaping work, which has been carried out in the vicinity of the Community Centre is good but there is plenty of scope here to improve on this. The planting inside the railing near to what is probably intended to be the green area across from the Heritage Centre will enhance this area of the village considerably. The flower/shrub planting at the grotto is excellent. The tree planting along the main street of the village looks well. There is an excellent landscaping project at the Kanturk junction; a green area has been tastefully planted. In addition stone seats and tables have been put in place and overall it is very impressive.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

This village is located in an area where there is an abundance of natural vegetation. Such an environment provides ideal habitat for any wildlife species. In addition the River Allow is an asset to the community and this provides habitat for wildlife species. Perhaps your future plans may at some stage make provision for the development of a designated wildlife attraction. Specialist advice is available for such development when you reach that stage (please see your Tidy Towns Handbook for further details).

Litter Control:

The control of litter will need to be a priority for the future. There was some litter in the general area of the Community Centre and no litter bins were in place here, this would need to be rectified. There seemed to be quite good litter control along the main street of the village. Most communities experience difficulty with litter control and it takes a well co-ordinated approach to come to grips with it. It is important to create an awareness of this problem and it would be advisable too to involve the school in this process. Such an approach would help to build a good foundation for the future.

Tidiness:

There is plenty of scope for improvement in this category of the Competition in some areas of the village. The general area of the Community Centre was tidy. The walls and gates at the GAA entrance were well painted but the immediate area was otherwise quite untidy with a lot of high weed growth in the vicinity. The area in the vicinity of the church was quite tidy. Areas in the vicinity of business premises in the village were also quite tidy. The school grounds were very tidy.

Residential Areas:

The use of colourful hanging baskets at Noonan's Park enhances this area. In nearby Allow Place - Ait Alua houses and gardens were also quite well presented. Also there are a number of individual examples of very nicely presented houses and gardens on approach roads to the village. All residents in and around the village can help make a contribution to this category of the Competition and the present effort should be continued.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to the village were generally well presented. The road from Dromina was quite good and grass verges and footpaths were well maintained. A Duhallow Trail sign was in place here. At a designated development site at Knockaneglass East, a fine standard of new footpaths have been laid down. There was a considerable amount of grass and weed growth quite close to the Community Centre premises and this took considerably from the building and the immediate area. Also the surface of the car park here was in need of attention. Fine stone walls have been constructed in the vicinity of the school and the Community Centre premises and the plaque which acknowledges the origin of the stone from the old Post Office and shop in the village is an interesting idea. It is suggested that signs for the GAA Field be put in place. The speed limit signs near the entrance to the GAA Field have been defaced and should be repainted. The restored water pumps in

the village are now very attractive. The grotto is a lovely feature and is excellently maintained. The large car park in the vicinity of the grotto was quite clean and tidy; the speed limit signs near here were also in need of cleaning and repainting. The old bridge wall on the Kanturk approach would be enhanced if cleaned down.

General Impression:

It is encouraging that the community is making a fresh start in the Competition. By drawing up a comprehensive action plan the community can make worthwhile progress. It is to be hoped that the entire community will give every support to these new efforts. Well done and good luck in your efforts for the 2005 competition!