

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mitchelstown**

Ref: **182**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **201**

Category: **D**

Date: **18/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	27
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	201	196

Overall Developmental Approach:

This is a busy thriving town where there is a considerable amount of development taking place. The town has many interesting features foremost being its two main squares, Kings Square and New Market Square. The background information supplied is helpful. It must be stated that the town has to deal with an enormous throughput of traffic and coping with this huge volume of vehicles passing through the town is one of the main challenges facing the community. On the positive side however, this emphasises the vibrant nature of the town and creates the image of a busy commercial centre on a very important route.

The Built Environment:

There is no shortage of a wide range of impressive buildings, many of them on a grand scale. In the area of New Market Square there is a variation of well maintained buildings many of them commercial conveying the striking impression of a thriving market town. The Kingston College complex off Kings Square is a unique and impressive project. It is magnificently presented and represents the town's past architectural heritage in a positive manner. The church of the Immaculate Conception, the Catholic church and St. George's, the Church of Ireland church are two fine impressive buildings. The building in Thomas St. which houses the Ozanam Resource Centre of St. Vincent de Paul is impressive and well maintained. Another excellently presented building in the town is that of the Credit Union premises. In fact all along the town's main street, Cork St. Upper and Lower, this is well presented. Buildings such as the Garda Station and Post Office were also well

presented. Semi derelict premises such as the corner building at the top of Robert St. would need to be attended to.

Landscaping:

A considerable amount of landscaping work has been carried out in and around the town. The mature landscaping in the vicinity of Kings Square is indeed very impressive. Georges St. too looks impressive in this regard. The landscaping project in the open green area at Ballinwillin close is excellently presented and maintained. Also landscaping at the entrance to the Dairygold premises at the eastern end of the town looks well. The colourful hanging baskets and trees in Baldwin St. looked well. The green area and landscaping in the vicinity of St. George's church is very well maintained. The tree planting which has been carried out at New Market Square will enhance this large open area considerably.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The development of a good wildlife amenity area would indeed be a great asset to the community. Probably St. Fanahans Well area represents the best possibility for this. It would be advisable, however, to obtain the advice of wildlife specialists on this - please consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for contacts. It is suggested that the advancement of such a project should be a priority in your future plans for development. The provision and availability of a fully designated wildlife area would have an enriching effect on the lives of the entire community.

Litter Control:

The efforts which you are making in this regard are noted. For all communities the control of litter is a constant problem but the problem is more acute in a busy town like Mitchelstown. In general, the litter situation in the town was quite good with some exceptions. The areas which had most litter at the time of adjudication was at the approach to the town at the Dublin/Limerick junctions and these areas would need to be watched. There was litter and a quantity of cigarette ends in the immediate area of St. Fanahan's monument near the Garda Station and this would need to be attended to for the future. Litter bins are in place in most busy areas and it was noted that there was little evidence of litter in the busy area of Cork St. Lower in particular, but in Upper Cork St. there was some traces of litter even though bins are in place nearby. There was scarcely any in the New Market Square area.

Tidiness:

There was a good level of tidiness generally throughout the town. Areas in the vicinity of the Bottle Banks at the Tesco Centre were quite tidy. Also, areas such as Church St. and George's St. were were tidy; James St. was also very tidy. The entrance to Mitchelstown Livestock Mart and Dairygold premises were quite tidy. However the entrance to Baile Mhisteal GAA playing field could be improved as it appeared somewhat untidy. Areas in the vicinity of churches were tidy as were the entrance areas of the CBS and Convent schools.

Residential Areas:

There was a very good level of tidiness in the vicinity of many residential areas and obviously a lot of effort has been made to attain good presentation. For example at Abbey view, Radharc na Mainstreach houses and gardens were very nicely presented; also the large green area here with picnic tables was well maintained. At Mitchelscourt Estate too residents had their areas very nicely presented. At the other end of the town, houses and gardens in Ballinwillin Close were neatly presented. In the Kings Square area, gardens and houses are well attended to. There is a considerable amount of new housing development taking place in the vicinity of the town such as that on Araglin road and Carrigroe.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main approach roads to the town would need more attention. On the Fermoy approach, whilst the footpaths were clean and tidy, there was quite a lot of grass and weed growth along the walls. On the Dublin approach road the grass verges were extremely overgrown and looked quite neglected. Such was the extent of the weed growth that it was almost as high as the trees planted here. The Araglin approach road was tidy. The Killarney/Mallow approach road was also quite tidy; the kerbs/footpaths here were very clean and tidy. The approach road from Limerick was reasonably tidy. The refurbished New Market Square looks impressive and is being well maintained. The condition of streets generally in the town was good; at the time of adjudication road/street repairs were in progress at Baldwin St. and in the Kings Square areas. The Earl of Kingston Memorial plaque near Kings Square was well maintained; the seat nearby is in need of repainting. At the northern side of King Square towards that area where there are two tall impressive cut-stone pillars, there is an open green area which is extremely overgrown with high grass and weed growth making it look very unsightly. Nearby the poles and speed limit signs look equally unsightly as they are rusty, damaged and in need of replacing. The grotto at the eastern end of the town is a nice feature but with a little effort in the immediate area a better presentation could be achieved. The Naomh Fanahan monument near the Garda Station is a nice feature. The Millennium plaque erected by the Festival of the Galties in the vicinity of the Fire Station premises is tastefully completed.

General Impression:

This is a fine town set in North Cork on an important and busy route. The town seems to cope well with the huge traffic flow and the community and commercial life of the town flourishes. The town is making good progress in the Tidy Towns Competition and has the potential to achieve much more. Perhaps it may be helpful if a longer term plan was drawn up for the town and then the work identified could be carried out on a priority basis. The community has a good foundation on which to build and by maintaining existing efforts, perhaps in a more co-ordinated way, further progress will be made.