

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Belgooly**

Ref: **139**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **186**

Category: **B**

Date: **23/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	23
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	11	9
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	186	175

Overall Developmental Approach:

Belgooly is an interesting village as it combines elements of old and new and also copes with heavy traffic on the main Kinsale –Cork Road. The active tidy towns committee, with very good membership numbers, appears to be facing these challenges very well and the three to five year plan is a very comprehensive document outlining the objectives clearly. A number of items on the plan are dependent on the County Council and other public bodies. This means that the achievements will require considerable lobbying – which a tidy towns committee is in a good position to do.

The Built Environment:

The old village buildings – the terraced housing, church and school, business premises such as Colemens and the Huntsman look well. The school building – (located so far from the village but unfortunately with no footpath) looks well. The brick patterned façade is attractive at the school building. The roadside wall could be improved with stone facing and the weeds to the foot of the wall are a little untidy. The church looks very well and holds a commanding position in the village. The red shed, old post office and adjoining buildings, together with the old house and a few other buildings, are in need of a solution. They occupy prominent positions in the village and hopefully a remedy will be found for these. The community hall in its striking colour scheme looks cheerful. The convenience store looks good and Cramer Close estate appears well with lots of tree planting which will come into prominence in a few years and give great character to the estate. The garden feature

by the sculpture on the Kinsale Road is attractive, although in a way, takes the focus from the sculpture and perhaps a oval shaped pebble base may give more prominence to it.

Landscaping:

Good landscaping features have been included in the development of the village. The area by the old bridge is very well treated – this old four arched bridge and adjoining wall is attractively treated with the planting and grass approach. The lighting of this is an excellent idea. Planting by the Huntsman is attractive. The planting in the Meadows and the Cramer Close is well done.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The estuary walk proposal is excellent and hopefully it will succeed. The signboard is helpful. Local knowledge could provide such information as – what might be expected to be seen of the wild life of the area would be worth accumulating for handing on to future generations.

Litter Control:

There is a good standard of litter control and the practice of having three litter picking sessions per week is laudable. With such traffic passing through it is difficult to eliminate litter and constant vigilance is needed, especially where cars can pull in at the sculpture and the stone bridge.

Tidiness:

The tidiness aspect of the village is improving. The obvious difficulties of unsightly derelict and dilapidated buildings offer a challenge. Weed by walls and kerbs, such as those at the school, need attention. The disruption caused by building works in progress is always a difficulty as with the new building site by the football pitches. A watchful eye is needed to ensure that sites are presented well before the developers leave those sites.

Residential Areas:

The large housing estates are well maintained with good attention to gardens and well-planted open spaces. These will mature well if careful attention is given to tree ties and the replacement of damaged trees as necessary. The grass care is good. The terraced housing within the village and on the Ballinderisk road looks well. Interesting painting combinations have been used and the result is very cheerful. Individual homes and gardens also contribute well to the overall appearance of the residences of the village and good credit is due to all who take such care.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces need some attention in places. The uneven surfaces are noticeable in a number of places on the main road as one pulls in to the hard shoulder areas and particularly so on the road to the school.

General Impression:

Belgooly is making good strides in changing the face of the village to match the current needs of greater housing developments and the resultant consequences. Combining the best of the old with the current requirements would not be a bad approach to development in the village and surrounds.