

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrigaline**

Ref: **88**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **220**

Category: **F**

Date: **22/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	38
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	24	28
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	27	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>220</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The large committee of 20 persons has made good progress in Carrigaline. The cooperation with public bodies and involvement with the residents associations, clubs and other organizations is key to good development in a town of this nature as there are very diverse interests present and an expanding population as evidenced by the amount of new building developments. The three year plan presented with the entry form has aims that are very positive and pinpoints very pertinent areas for development. This can act as a yardstick by which annual progress can be made.

### The Built Environment:

There are many fine features of the built environment. The Catholic Church in its prominent position and beautiful brick structure looks very well. The fire station with its unusual but very attractive style is an unexpected find. The library is in a seriously dilapidated condition as regards décor and hopefully that can be rectified soon. The bookshop, Walsh's pharmacy and Gaelic Bar look well. Powers Bookmakers and Barcellos also looked well presented. The Garda station and Carrigaline Court Hotel look especially well and the Court hotel has settled in well to the townscape. There are still a number of buildings that require attention to paint and general appearance – these are becoming more apparent as others stride forward in this respect. The corner junction at the Kilmoney Road is very much in need of attention and in contrast to the other end of the town where there is a very attractive entrance by the roundabout. The old cement building is also unhelpful

## **Landscaping:**

The most striking aspect of the landscape of Carrigaline is the manner in which so many trees have been planted both in the new housing estates, at their entrances and along the relief roads. The retention of trees and hedgerows in the developments is also very helpful. Street trees are very attractive too and have developed well to date. There are many colourful landscape features in the town such as the hanging baskets by the building along side the river by Walsh's pharmacy; at the shopping centre carpark along the by the Bank building; at the Court Hotel and by the seating at the riverside. The landscaping in the carpark behind the Toastmasters premises is very unfinished and particularly so near the Funeral Home. The roundabout is attractively landscaped by the church with an interesting and unique landscape style which is very welcome as so many roundabouts thought the country adopt a very conventional landscape style. The Gaelscoil and Carrigaline United A.F.C clubhouse look well. The green space outside the Pottery Barn is sadly neglected.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Carrigaline has a wealth of interesting wildlife appreciation opportunities nearby. The walkway is a very valuable asset and can be enjoyed both for observation of the wildlife or the walkway can be used simply for exercise. Greater awareness and greater dispersal of the information to facilitate people's appreciation of such facilities would be welcome.

## **Litter Control:**

While so many aspects of the town are good and positive the level of litter occurrence through the main street was disturbing. In many places litter was strewn along the gutter and footpaths in the main area of the town. The litterbins are large and attractive with facility for tapping out cigarettes on top.

## **Tidiness:**

The derelict buildings - it is understood that these are a challenge - which hopefully will be overcome soon. Signs protruding from shops in a vast array of types and shapes and styles are a little untidy. The area around the library building is disturbing. The area surrounding the shopping units opposite the Castlecourt housing estate need tidying up. Areas around the back carpark of Toastmasters premises as mentioned above need attention - particularly the broken timber fence and subsiding paving.

## **Residential Areas:**

The vast number of housing estates makes Carrigaline a very busy residential area. Looking through so many of these - Ashgrove, Heatherfield, Nova Court, Seaview, Waterpark, Wesley, Castlecourt in particular, Somerville, the housing estate opposite the Carrigaline United A.F. C clubhouse, Maurland to mention a few - all revealed a very good standard of care and attention and these while very extensive, do seem to have been incorporated well into the surrounds of the town. From a distant view they look overpowering and yet the tree planting and green space provision is very helpful. Care is needed to keep a watchful eye on developments to ensure that sites are finished off well before developers leave the sites.

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

The relief road offers good possibilities of avoiding the main street although there still is considerable traffic congestion in the main street. Allowing parking along the main street is unhelpful both to traffic and pedestrians - in fact Carrigaline Main Street is not a very pedestrian friendly place and efforts should be directed to this aspect. Road surfaces through the town could be improved - especially by the sides of roads such as outside Chartbusters premises. Roads in housing estates are

well cared for. The footpath walkway by the estuary is a lovely walk and the railings are attractive.

### **General Impression:**

Carrigaline combines residential and town centre well. The efforts made to avail of the natural facilities are credit worthy. Attention to detail at this stage within the streets is all-important, litter, signage especially as well as the continued challenges of carparking and dilapidation.