Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cobh** Ref: **617**

County: **Cork South** Mark: **231**

Category: **E** Date: **24/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	37
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	24	27
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	**300**	**231**	**231**

Overall Developmental Approach:

The three-year plan, additional material submitted with your entry form and the town map provided great assistance when adjudicating. These materials pinpointed areas of particular interest where the tidy towns committee have either achieved progress or have focused upon for development. The focus on litter elimination is excellent and the appointment of a schools co-ordinator is helpful. Focus also on the walkways from the squares is helpful as these form an important character of the town and are worth highlighting. The survey that is intended will also be a good motivation.

The Built Environment:

Along the waterfront, from the Heritage Centre railway station, the buildings look very colourful and give great character to the town. However, on closer examination of each individual building, quiet a number are in need of attention to paint and general décor. The two squares are a little disappointing in this regard. The many well cared for buildings seem to show up those that need attention. The Court House/library building is missing part of a down pipe and this results in staining along the wall. Various markings on these walls take from this very fine landmark building. Both Scotts Square and Pearse Square offer good opportunities for upgrading. The cathedral looks excellent and is a magnificent building which dominates the town. The Sirus Art Centre, the Town Hall and Post Office are fine buildings and the remarkable Pillars Bar look very attractive. The bandstand and the ornamental feature within the park are also attractive. The gates and railings of the Kennedy Park, close to the post office, require painting. The emigration statue is striking and

very emotive. The Monument in Scotts Square is interesting and is nicely placed. The young Men's Society Hall must have looked impressive once upon a time but now appears to have been distorted by the imposition of the shop units. In any future restructuring of this building, perhaps a style could be adopted which would enhance the overall picture of the building. At Cuchulainn Place there is a considerable amount of dereliction and the road downhill from there shows various wall features that could be improved. The many passageways and steps give great character to the town. The "pack of cards" street – Westview, is unique and the buildings are well maintained in that street.

Landscaping:

The Kennedy Park is attractively landscaped both in terms of plants, hard surfaces and furniture. It is a park which enables multiple uses and as such is a great asset to have in such a prominent place. The hanging baskets positioned right through the town, on the lamp standards, are a wonderful innovation and are a very attractive idea. They add extra sparkle to the streets. The work of preparing and keeping these in order must be mammoth and great credit is due for this venture. Planting and maintenance at the Community school is very good and the sports areas provide great opportunity for people to walk and train as was seen during that evenings adjudication. The trees surrounding this area form a very attractive location. The entrance to housing estates and open spaces provide good opportunities for landscaping and help to present a very pleasant entrance to estates. Work at Philip O'Neill estate was noted. The retention of mature trees is also a notable feature in the Spires estate and illustrates the importance of tree planting for future generations - the people that planted these trees could never have hoped to see them to maturity – we owe a similar legacy to the next few generations. Some dead trees, near the taxi Cab kiosk, could be removed. The border of New Zealand flax by the side of the Cathedral is attractive, as is the little garden beneath the railings to the front of the cathedral.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

A visit to the Cushkinny reserve is interesting. The display boards are useful. The shoreline all through the town and surrounds are a great asset and efforts to offer greater opportunity for appreciation of the natural environment are very worthwhile. Please consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for more information and assistance in this regard.

Litter Control:

The efforts – as stated in your documentation, to keep the environment and town litter free are admirable. Litter freedom is difficult and requires constant campaigns, education and volunteers. Litter was noted at various places – particularly the squares; at the recycling bins beside the Community college there is serious management problem - much litter is getting blown about and lodging at the boundaries and at the unsightly building behind the bins. This litter is a source then of further dispersal. The erection of a fence-enclosed area close to the bins would help to contain such litter until it is dealt with. Serious littering was noted at the waterside grassed area to the side of the Sirus Arts Centre

Tidiness:

The tidying of back areas and passageways, as mentioned in the plan, will be very helpful. The passageway opposite the fire station is untidy with considerable litter. The area behind the Court Arch (by the carpark) could also do with refreshing . The Kennedy Park has a very tidy appearance, as does the area of the Heritage centre. The shrubs/trees growing from the roofs of several buildings in Scotts Square gives a very neglected impression as do the grass weeds around the memorial there.

Residential Areas:

There is a vast array of residential types – from the street side terraced housing to apartments and

housing estates. The housing estates look very well in general and, as stated above, tree planting helps greatly in these estates. Individual care and attention of houses and gardens goes a long way towards presenting a good picture in any area. The Westview houses are especially attractive.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces are generally good through the town and surrounds. The parking of cars on narrow streets causes difficulties. The Cork road is attractively planted with an enormous amount of trees and these give a lovely entrance to the town. Well-kept grass verges also add to the picture. A number of footpaths need attention in the town and would present considerable difficulties to wheel chair users, the visually impaired and those with baby buggies. The continuation of footpath improvements will be welcome.

General Impression:

There is a very grand appearance along the waterfront and this sets the scene for the many interesting hilly streets and pathways behind. The park and road frontage along the waterfront is very attractive. Greater attention to detail and to the standards of buildings in the town would be welcomed.