Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Innishannon** Ref: **55**

County: **Cork South** Mark: **226**

Category: **B** Date: **23/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	35	34
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	**300**	**226**	**222**

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the nine-point guide through the village, which made for a very interesting approach to the visit. This is not exactly a five-year plan and such a plan is needed for this part of the completition. It is a very useful way of focusing on all the priority issues that need to be addressed . Then a time scale of three to five years can be placed on this. Yearly after that, the assessment of how far you have succeeded can be measured and acts as a good motivator for your committee. The current work being undertaken is very good and Innishannon is a very attractive place to visit.

The Built Environment:

There are many finely painted business premises in the main street and this gives a very cheerful vista on rounding the corner into the village. The old arched walls with the terraced houses behind them are a unique feature of Innishannon and look very well. The stone features throughout lend good character to the village scene. The churches look very well and form a backbone of permanent architecture. Hopefully the old Forge will be rebuilt as outlined in your material. There has been a lot of restoration but there continues to be a number – maybe six very prominent buildings which would help to change the face of the village if they were restored – The Innishannon Boat premises is deteriorating badly at the moment. The old tower is a fine asset and it would be great if work resumed on this project. The building opposite the grotto continues to present difficulty.

Landscaping:

The first landscaping impact in the village is made by the many fine displays of containerised plantings along the street – by shops and houses. These give a good sparkle of colour to the village. The containers on the wall top towards the Bandon end look well. Tree planting is a vital part of the village planting and the trees planted earlier along the street are now showing well as they mature. Individual trees can play a very significant part – as correctly noted in your material, the willow tree by the bridge and the copper beech at the church for example. The special features of bedding plants, as at the Art Gallery, look well. The efforts of individual gardeners in their own gardens make a great contribution to the overall landscape of the village and great credit is due to these people. The grotto is attractively maintained as is the grass verge on the opposite side of the road planted with trees and a well-mown grass verge. The floral display is attractive.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As was mentioned, the years progress should be stated under this heading. There are lots of opportunities with the woodland and river background. A programme of appreciation of the natural environment could be established with walks and information made available of what may be observed. Local information could be accumulated and schools could become involved. The main point of this is that people both young and old would have the opportunity to learn and enjoy the value of our local natural environment and pass the information to younger generations. Please consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for more assistance under this heading.

Litter Control:

There is an improved standard of litter control in the village and the street and surrounds has a clean look. Recycling and public awareness about the damage that litter causes to the environment is vital.

Tidiness:

Generally there is a tidy appearance in the village and surrounds. The buildings that need attention detract a little from this, as do the abandoned or “left” cars behind the Art gallery.

Residential Areas:

The number of street dwellings is high giving a lovely village aspect to the street. Unfortunately, the volume of traffic passing deters from this and hopefully traffic someday will not enter the main street as it does now if traffic calming measures are put in place. The terraced houses behind the wall are well tended and the colourful array of paint colours gives an interesting picture. Individual homes above the main street are well cared for and contribute well to the overall village scene. The housing estates - The Spires, Roseland and Mulberry View are
well cared for and provide a quieter life style away from the traffic.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The traffic through the village is very daunting – it is difficult to cross the road with safety and perhaps more pedestrian crossings would be welcome. Allowing parking in narrow parts of the main street causes further bottlenecks as large trucks try to get through. The road surfaces are moderately good. Surfaces near the art gallery and areas behind there need attention. Overhead cable removal would be a welcome project.

General Impression:

Innishannon is a pretty village, which is nicely tucked in by the riverside and is a surprise to find as you round the bend by the bridge from Bandon. There is a good spirit of work and enthusiasm.

Progress can be made to further enhance the village.