

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ladysbridge**

Ref: **658**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **218**

Category: **A**

Date: **25/06/2004**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2004 | Mark Awarded 2003 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 31 | 30 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 30 | 30 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 33 | 32 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 12 | 12 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 34 | 33 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 18 | 18 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 24 | 23 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 29 | 26 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 218 | 211 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

The tidy towns committee membership of 14 is marvelous for such a small community. There is very good evidence of activity by the local community in the many projects being carried out - most of all by the enthusiasm of the volunteers who were busy cleaning the village at adjudication time. The attention to detail is encouraging. A plan should be devised for implementation over the next three to five years – this is a requirement of this part of the competition. All that is required is to list the priorities, schedule when, over the next few years these can be accomplished and this can act as a measure of yearly progress also.

The Built Environment:

Good stonewall use is evident in the village. The attractive bridge and the wall behind the monument were admired – the kerbing stones when complete will give a very attractive site for the monument. The thatched premises looks well and is a good feature. There are four business premises on the staggered five cross roads and these look well maintained. The post office and petrol station is also well maintained with the good outdoor facilities surrounding the station. The parish hall is an attractive building. The church is attractive and the walkway by the river with rose borders is lovely from the church to the bridge or carpark. The cemetery wall is a lovely stone structure. Stone is also used well at the entrance to the Rathcullen Wood estate. The village center is enhanced by the building of the new houses bringing life right into the middle of the village.

Landscaping:

There are a number of lovely landscape projects. The church, riverside with roses and the cemetery are all attractively presented. The clean up and removal of trees by the river has opened up that area nicely and the seating by the river is more attractive. Work on clearing and planting there is good. Tree planting through the village and surrounds is good also. The old trees retained by the entrance to the Willowfield estate are invaluable and a lesson can be learned here as those trees were planted by previous generation and we are benefiting today – we owe a similar legacy to the next generations. Many of the trees planted are of the ornamental types where as if you look at the mature trees of the area these are the most likely to succeed today. Some dead trees were noted along the road from the Rathcullen estate. The planting within the Rathcullen estate is attractive and will provide all year round colour. Many window boxes and containers through the village are lovingly maintained and give a nice sparkle of colour for the summer. The tree planting within the Willowfield estate is very positive, as is the high standard of maintenance of the cemetery

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The development of a walkway from the village to include a riverside path would be a great asset. Ways of providing an awareness of the natural environment would be very helpful and hopefully some project will emerge that can be furthered by the enthusiastic committee.

Litter Control:

There is a very good level of litter control and the diligence is paying off well. The continued picking of litter is admirable and it is great to see people so intent on keeping their village place clean.

Tidiness:

Building work always causes a litter disruption to tidiness. The kerb building will be complete soon in the village and this will give a very finished look. The old bridge and treatment of the derelict building is admirable.

Residential Areas:

The two main residential estates are well cared for and the housing looks very well. It is good that these are so near to the village centre - although footpaths from Rathcullen directly to roads and in the village are generally well tended and there is a good sense of pride in homes and gardens. The village are not yet in place. Having new residences actually in the village center is welcome; these look very well and add new life. The individual houses along the village approach

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Some attention to unevenness of road surfaces would be helpful. The church car park is well marked – perhaps a line of trees would be an interesting addition to break the expanse of the carpark this could be placed parallel to the rose border in the middle of the carpark by the entrance to the cemetery.

General Impression:

It is good that the village centre is being maintained so well and this forms the kernel of the village. The unique cross roads and stream with the bridges make the village interesting. A careful watch should be made with future developments that they do not harm the essence of the village style.

