

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Macroom**

Ref: **721**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **245**

Category: **D**

Date: **07/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	32	30
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	245	240

Overall Developmental Approach:

There is strong evidence of a very active tidy towns committee within Macroom. The development plan is comprehensive and addresses many of the challenges that exist in the town. Hopefully the ByPass will come soon as this will enable further developments within the town and make the town more pedestrian friendly. The increase in numbers to 20 of the committee is also helpful and the involvement with the council and community groups is very helpful. The newsletter is a very positive move and reading through this would help encourage people and make them more aware and appreciative of their own environment. The six maps helped to pinpoint all the relevant areas within and around the town.

The Built Environment:

The market square is looking very well with a very good standard of upkeep of the buildings. The AIB has been painted very well – this is very welcome, and also a number of other buildings around that area. There are still a number of premises along the Cork road end of the town where some painting would be helpful and some premises on the South Street and Castle Street. The market building is a fine centerpiece for the town and the Church of Ireland hopefully will rise to become a very prominent part of the town in the future. The courthouse and Garda station look well as also does the entrance to the demesne with the attractive stone surfaced patterned paving. The interesting laneways off the main street give character to the town – Williams's lane, Duggan lane and Holland land for example. These are well maintained – the view that these provide towards the

back areas can be variable and needs to be taken into account (Williams lane). The ESB building is well screened from the road by attractive wine coloured maples. The interesting building – Environmental Industrial Park is novel and some explanation of its structure would be welcome. The stone bridge is of course a unique feature of the town and the inset viewing points are attractive – hopefully some day a pedestrian walkway will be constructed to the outer side of the bridge for greater safety and less road splash for pedestrians. The prefabs unfortunately continue to be in position in front of the old school buildings – in contrast to the futuristic car showrooms at the Cork end of the town.

Landscaping:

The demesne provides a lovely landscaped amenity within the town with very easy access. The tree planting through the main street is maturing well and is now providing a significant streetscape. Similarly so the trees up the hill to the Catholic Church. Tree planting along the Ballinagree road below the courthouse has also matured well. The floral displays through the town square are attractive and add a sparkle to the town. The housing estates contribute well to the landscape – particularly the Coleman Parks area where there is a lovely landscape feature within the estate as well as many well cared for gardens. The park to the end of this estate is very attractive with a very sober combination of trees and well tended grass – this is an excellent formula and provides a lovely amenity. Tree planting in the Castlecourt estate is well done and maturing well. The new estates at Fairfield and Ard na Greine are well planted and in time will mature well. Hopefully the Millbrook estate will be landscaped soon. Planting to either side of Bowl Road looks very attractive.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The riverside walks offer great opportunity for strolling and enjoying the natural environment and having access so close to the town is a bonus. Schemes to encourage people to use and appreciate this fine facility should be encouraged – particularly the young. School organised projects could be very helpful in this regard.

Litter Control:

Over the years good improvements have been made in this aspect. The leaflet “Macroom action on Waste” is a very positive move and also all the work as indicated from the paper cuttings is commendable for Macroom. Constant vigilance is needed to keep litter at bay and the fight can never cease. Some small amounts of litter were noted but generally there is a good standard now in Macroom.

Tidiness:

The well-organised town square helps provide a tidy appearance. The vegetable market taking place was tidy and the vendors cleaned up very well at the end of trade. The storage of materials outside the hardware shop near the South Street is not only untidy but dangerous and a number of rakes were strewn across the paving and plastic bins obscured the alternative way – stepping out on the road. The small carpark at the top of South Street is untidy and some attention there would be helpful. Carparking permitted on the main street is difficult to understand – there are enormous carparks behind buildings and yet for the sake of a few car spaces along from D.J.Kennys shop towards the square – the whole traffic flow is disrupted every time truck passes.

Residential Areas:

As mentioned above the housing estates are well landscaped. The many terraced houses on the Killarney road and the Ballinagree road are a welcome aspect of the town as they provide life right in the centre of the town. The painting of many of these is well done and looks very smart. Some attention to painting of houses on the Cork road would be welcome and perhaps a better treatment of the garages opposite the terraced houses on the Ballinagree road. The O’ Connor Park housing

estate is looking well as usual with the interestingly painted houses.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As stated last year – the Bypass cannot come soon enough. Roads are overcrowded within the town and this leads to many difficulties. Plans should be made to make the best use of the streets when this does happen with lots of pedestrianised and one-way systems. The approach roads are well tended. The road surface within the new estate called Millbrook is very badly presented – admittedly this estate is not yet finished and yet there appears to be people living there. This suggests that a watchful eye should be kept on developments to ensure that services are well provided before developers leave the site.

General Impression:

Good strides have been made in Macroom over the years. The whole area behind the main street has been developed well with large carparks, and a large amount of housing right within the town. The new infill housing is welcome as this further enhances the people aspect of the town. The beautiful setting of the town with the castle grounds makes a great facility.

Second Round Adjudication:

The town was busy on a Saturday second round adjudication day and traffic was quite busy. Yet it was a pleasure to traverse the streets and side lanes and witness the great progress throughout in recent years. The square is your strong point and its design and layout is commendable: good footpaths, attractive tree planting, high display of colour from window boxes, hanging baskets and tubs all combining to present it to a high standard. The after effects of Friday night activity seemed evident in many areas around O' Riada's and the church with the small unattractive hut on the avenue leading up to the doorway was littered with food cartons. Chapel Lane is really sweet and provides a standard for others to pursue. The first adjudication gives great detail on your strong and weak points and we hope these will be acted upon in future years. You have increased your marks significantly over two years and you are now in a high league, where the expectation is greater. Your town has one of the most attractive rivers in the country and a generous amount of it flowing through the town, providing great potential for leisure activity and environmental enhancement. Indeed, even the pitch and putt course provides a lovely shade of green from the attractively presented river bridge. One small point, the An tAth Peadar O Laoire sign on the museum is poor and does not do justice to the memory of the scholar.