

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Midleton**

Ref: **477**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **234**

Category: **E**

Date: **23/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	37	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	30	31
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	234	232

Overall Developmental Approach:

Midleton has developed very well over the past number of years and has coped well with the expanding accommodation sector. The many improvements at roads, roundabouts and streets have lead to a very vibrant town at this stage. In the past a well-structured plan was presented with the entry. Much has been achieved as a result of that plan. A new plan is now needed for the next three to five years to focus on new developments planned. This can also act as a yardstick to measure achievements on a year-to-year basis and can improve motivation. New buildings developments, retail outlets and traffic increase are all part of the new Midleton

The Built Environment:

There are many fine buildings throughout the town. The Garda station looks very well as does the AIB Bank and McDaid's public House. The three story red brick terraced buildings beyond the bridge look especially well. As do the Heritage centre, Churches and schools. The use of old buildings as facades for new developments is admirable as at the Mill Race apartments. Other apartment buildings at Castle Desmond, Coolbawn, Corr Abbey and Roxboro Court are also attractive and represent a new aspect to the town. The Dairy Gold building is a very significant landmark in the town. The interesting Kenny's car showrooms is a novel style of building for this town. The many shops on the main street have a good standard of décor and look bright and clean with the exception now of a small number. The Post Office unfortunately is among that few. The tall terraced houses on Broderick Street have great potential and it would be marvelous to see them rejuvenated as they

form a unique part of the streetscape. Also the old convent building with windows boarded up hopefully will find a new lease of life. Our Lady of Lourdes community Centre is attractively set behind the line of mature trees and forms a nice picture. Mac Sweeney's Terrace is a beautiful terrace and the houses are very well kept. The nearby old railway station – like the convent hopefully will rise again. The new children's playground near the GAA grounds is of very high quality with well fenced in area looking colourful and smart particularly with the stainless steel seating.

Landscaping:

There are many fine landscape features in Midleton. The roundabout and the various planted areas in the vicinity of this are very attractive and give a very good impression on entering the town. Tree planting has been successfully achieved in many areas. The old mature trees on the Broderick street look well having been cut back severely in the past. The new amenity park at the millennium garden was in process of construction and looks promising- the planting done to date is interesting. The new Roxboro amenity project is an attractive feature and well presented. This needs a little time to mature but is an excellent use of that space. At the junction for Youghal the planting is attractive and forms a good impression on leaving the town. The roadside planting along towards the Council Offices and Pitch and Putt is well maintained and the trees backing this are excellent. Inside the Pitch and Putt grounds there are attractive trees and great opportunity for walking. The carpark close to the fairgreen where the carnival takes place is very well planted with trees around the periphery and forms a very good enclosure. The carpark at Lidl is also well planted with the island plantings through the carpark. Displays of seasonal bedding plants add sparkle to the town in many areas and great credit is due to those responsible for their placement and upkeep through the summer. The containers at St. Mary's and St Thomas's terraces are particularly attractive. The trees and grass verges along by the river towards the amenity walkway is well cared for

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There is tremendous opportunity for wildlife appreciation only stones throw from the town centre. This riverside areas and lagoon walk are marvelous assets – leading to the waterside area. As mentioned last year greater use could be made of this area by having greater access to the waterside, more paths and more information about the birds and plants that area likely to be seen, local information could be accumulated in conjunction with school projects so that the fund of information would be readily available and accessible in both sign board, trail and general printed material.

Litter Control:

Midleton has made great efforts to keep the streets clean. There was a good deal of litter noted along the main street – it was early morning – 8.00 am and hopefully this would be cleaned swiftly. Litter at the area of the entrance to the lagoon from the end of Broderick street by the pedestrian bridge was disturbing as much litter seemed to have accumulated there over a period. The bridge itself needs painting.

Tidiness:

The town has a tidy appearance. Areas by the heritage centre look tidy and very presentable. The overuse of shop signs can be a little much when these are cluttered together; the yard visible from the road close to the bridge opposite the heritage centre shows some untidiness. Work is progressing on the site beside Lidl, which when complete hopefully will give a more tidy appearance to that area. The old Dairy Gold site is not the most attractive. Care and attention to detail of Kerbside weeds, paint and décor and boundary walls and railings are all feature that add to tidiness of a town.

Residential Areas:

There are very good standards of housing and housing estates in and around the town. There are four main categories of housing - each with its unique features. The apartment buildings, which are nicely integrated with the existing town buildings. As mentioned above the Mill Race is especially good having used the original old façade. The Castle Desmond is also attractive. Landscaping in the carparks of the apartment blocks is very helpful in relieving the vastness of the buildings. Secondly, the street side terraces are a special of the town and many of these one story houses along the streets have been tastefully painted and look very well. Thirdly, single houses on the approach roads contribute well with their well-maintained gardens. And finally, the housing estates – so many along the road opposite Chadwicks and out the road by Dairy Gold show very good pride in their general presentation and upkeep, the large open greens add value to these estates and there are frequently noted opportunities for tree planting in the green open spaces. The smaller older estates within the town are well cared for – such as St Mary's and St. Thomas's and Mac Sweeney terraces.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road surface through the Main Street has been patched many times and is due for renewal to give a continuous cover surface. Approach roads to the town are made attractive by the roundabout and the junction at the top of the town. The riverside walk by the roadside is a very attractive feature.

General Impression:

Midleton has developed very well and is continuing to show good signs of improvement. The innovations of the children's playground, Roxboro garden project and renewal of the millennium garden are very positive indicators.