

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Minane Bridge**

Ref: **652**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **177**

Category: **A**

Date: **25/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	5	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>175</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Minane Bridge has great potential to become a much more attractive village and score higher. The committee of 12 is a sizable number and hopefully with good planning this village can rise considerably in the future years. At present the large amount of dereliction and current building developments are causing much distraction and the plan submitted while this is a good start – a much more comprehensive plan is needed to forge this village ahead and meet its potential.

### The Built Environment:

The beautifully painted blue and white church is remarkable and stands as the most unique feature in the village. The stonewalls near the church and along roadsides add a nice character to the village. The stone bridge is also attractive. The School and Community sports center are both looking well. The old Co-op is looking very grim. The Dempsey shop occupying such a central position in the village perhaps could be less obtrusive with so many materials and items placed outside. The De Bhuiteir premises looks well.

### Landscaping:

The area alongside the river by the church carpark is well maintained and gives a very pleasant aspect from the church and as you enter the millennium walk. Containerised plants in the village

add some colour seasonally. The entrance to Spruce Grove is nicely kept and the large chestnut trees at the entrance form a nice framework to the houses. There are good tree planting opportunities to the inside of the wall across the road from the church near the bridge. The new building housing estate hopefully will be well landscaped to tie in with the natural surroundings of the village.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The Wildlife appreciation possibilities will be mainly centered on the river and the millennium walk. Some information about what may be seen and observed along these areas would be helpful and it is noted in the plan that this is intended. On the millennium walk coloured New Zealand flax has been planted near a seat on the walk – future plantings would be well to concentrate on native plants for such places adding to the natural environment.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter was noted along the millennium walk, which was disappointing in such a beautiful setting. Constant attention to litter is needed to achieve a very high standard and this should be possible in such a small village.

### **Tidiness:**

The church, Spruce grove and the surrounding areas are very tidy and good credit is due for this. The derelict buildings and those in need of attention takes greatly from the overall appearance of the village and a new drive should be made to overcome these difficulties. The clutter near the shop and the overhead cables are not helpful.

### **Residential Areas:**

There is a small number of residences in the village. The spruce grove area is nicely tended with good work being done in maintaining both the houses and the surrounds. The attractive house opposite Dempsey's is nicely tended. Individual homes along the roadsides contribute well to the overall residential base of the village and every effort by each home owner benefits the overall impression that is presented.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Road surfaces are a little in need of attention in places – particularly where road works have been carried out previously. The lack of footpaths is a serious omission particularly at the bridge where the narrowness is dangerous when traffic approaches. Perhaps a walkway constructed to the outer side of the bridge would form a safer pedestrian way. The roadsides in the village center are a little rough and need attention. The incorporation of the new housing presents more traffic and roads should be geared for such.

### **General Impression:**

The church and surrounds shows how well the entire village could look if that standard pertained right through the village. An active tidy towns committee can transform the village and hopefully will meet this challenge. The large amount of dereliction and dilapidated buildings are not doing this attractive village justice.