

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rochestown**

Ref: **653**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **213**

Category: **D**

Date: **23/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	28	25
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	13	11
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>208</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The continual work of the tidy towns committee in following through all the various developments in Rochestown is commendable. The extensive area involved forms a major task. Changes such as the apartment building have had a big influence on the area. A development plan to pinpoint the major areas of activities that the committee would like to engage in over the next three to five years would be helpful at the stage. This would both point the way forward and give a yardstick against which an annual assessment of progress could be made. This in itself would act as motivation to meet the challenges.

### The Built Environment:

The Rochestown Inn, Cinnamon Cottage the petrol station and old railway platform form the core of the old village. The many developments that have taken place have been in association with this core. The platform is a very important part of the heritage and the information plaque is a very useful feature, The Cinnamon cottage looks very well in its very bright colours. At the other end of the village the Rochestown hotel is well presented and forms an important part of the village as well as being a part of the past heritage of the Kiltegan Fathers.

### Landscaping:

New landscaping at the entrance to the apartments at Hartys Quay is attractive and there is yet a small amount to finish. The entrance to Woodville is very attractive and well maintained as well as the area to the front of the Rochestown Inn by the river. The hedges by the roadside through the village give a nice green aspect to the roadsides and hopefully if some renewal hedge planting is done a more colourful hedge such as Fuchsia or Escallonia will be chosen. Tree planting along the length of the road from the Rochestown Hotel to the Rochestown Inn is very satisfactory and many of the earlier plantings are maturing well. Mature trees such as the Copper beech at Woodville show the value of even one tree as it reaches such maturity and are a great motivation for planting trees for the next generations to enjoy. Gardens play a considerable part in the landscape of the area and the many gardens that are so well kept are a credit to their owners and these contribute well to the overall appearance of Rochestown.

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

The Hop island walk is a marvelous facility and this acts both as a leisurely walk place and a place to appreciate the natural environment. Information to help people to know what to look for and when would be helpful. The surface of the walk is attractively presented with the natural coloured chippings. Car parking continues to be a problem at the entrance point to this area and it would be marvelous if parking spaces could be secured on the same side of the road. The Cuthbert's marsh project hopefully will develop well and offers a good opportunity. The pond, while interesting looking from a distance has a forbidding Keep Out Sign. Railings to the roadside is attractive and looks well.

### **Litter Control:**

There is a reasonable good level of litter control – litter was noted behind Bord Gais structure and at the Hop walk. Constant vigilance is needed to overcome this difficulty..

### **Tidiness:**

There is a good standard of tidiness throughout the village. The Harty Quay development has been finished off well and the attractive little carpark to the front is well cared for.

### **Residential Areas:**

There are quiet a number of housing estates all along the roadsides - The Kiltegan estates, estates at Wainsfort, Newlyn, The Ovals, Thornbury. All of these are very well cared for and the open greens and spaces within look very smart. The plantings done in the past contribute well now as these trees mature. The estate beyond the Rochestown Inn is also well cared for and many show good pride in their homes and gardens, which helps the overall vista of the village. Individual houses and gardens also play a significant part by the roadsides and contribute well. The apartment complexes are well landscaped and form a huge residential base in the area. The timbered faces of the Harty Quay apartments are already showing weathering signs

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

The road surfaces in general are in very good condition. This is not a happy place for pedestrians who wish to cross the road at any point. Provision of better pedestrian care would be welcome, as the traffic appears to travel at fast speeds despite the speed limit. The need for provision for pedestrians passing the Rochestown Inn has been mentioned before and sharing the road with cars is not satisfactory for pedestrian. New footpaths were noted along the roadside near Thornbury estate which is welcome.

### **General Impression:**

Rochestown has developed well and retained much of its village style despite the increase in housing

and traffic. The attractive walkways and views make this village special. Incorporating the needs of the enlarged community must take priority and this is a challenge, hopefully an enlarged committee which would include new residents will meet this challenge.