

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Drimoleague**

Ref: **591**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **201**

Category: **B**

Date: **06/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	201	196

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator was disappointed to note your problems in relation to the old railway station. This has been a problem area for a number of years now and its resolution is much needed at this stage. Hopefully it will be solved in the not too distant future. The adjudicator noted your plans in relation to the removal of the pebble dashing from the old railway wall in order to reveal the stonework below. Presumably stonework was its original finished material? We received, with your application, a copy of your plans for the current year but where is your three to five year work programme? Do ensure that render is not removed from traditional vernacular street houses as this is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view but also can lead to problems with water penetration.

The Built Environment:

The standard in this category of the competition was quite good on the day. The Garda Station looked very fresh in yellow in its prominent location. Rheinhardt's and the Mill Gallery were also well presented. The stonework and painted render in a cream colour with green trims is most effective! The Catholic Church looked well although perhaps some further landscaping could be considered in this location? The boundary wall of the Methodist Church should be painted before next year's competition. The Church of Ireland with its surrounding graveyard looked extremely well on the Dunmanway Road. Work appeared to be taking place at Keohane's Pub on the day. May Deane's is a charming front which should be painted up before next year's competition, as should Maurice Murphy's in its prominent location at the corner. The rear of this premises is quite dominant as one

returns to the main street from the church. Its projecting sign also appeared quite flaky. The school and grounds looked well. Harry Deane's was fresh, as was Centra and the colourful East End Bar. Daly's Funeral Hall sports some attractive traditional plasterwork to its upper façade.

Landscaping:

The hanging baskets on the bridge were admired as was the children's playground, which appeared to be a new development in the town since the adjudicator last had the pleasure of visiting Drimoleague. The planted stone beds with their displays of roses on the Dunmanway Road were admired. The grotto, also on this road, is well maintained and indeed ongoing maintenance was evident on adjudication day! The attractive landscaping adjacent to steps leading from the basketball courts and old railway platform to the church looked quite magnificent, as ever.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Do consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas for further development of this aspect of the competition. This covers such topics as habitat surveys, management plans, creating wildlife areas and the different kinds that can be achieved.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was reasonably good on first impressions. However, closer inspection revealed a few problem areas particularly along the main street, near Rheinhardt's and also by the school.

Tidiness:

Do consider outbuildings when looking at overall presentation - two on the Skibbereen Road created a bad impression. You should also consider messy yard areas, which should be screened from public view. Some landscaping could be considered at West Cork Well and Pump. The basketball courts at the old railway station sported a broken litter bin and the steps to a house facing the road to the church should be re-whitewashed before next year's competition.

Residential Areas:

Houses both in the town and along approach roads were generally well cared for on the day. Some attractive hydrangeas to a house on the Skibbereen Road were admired, as were the grassy banks to another house on this road. Millbrook Estate appears to have been nicely finished, and quite a deal of construction work appeared to be taking place to new houses on the main street and at Cul na Greine on the Dunmanway Road. There were a number of attractive houses and gardens on the road by the church.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard in this category of the competition could have been better on the day. On the Skibbereen Road, the welcome sign had virtually been obscured by overgrowth. The road surface to the Dunmanway Road was in bad condition, as indeed was the road surface in the town itself. There were too many advertising hoardings also on the former road and the town nameplate in this location was virtually obscured by the planting grown to its front.

General Impression:

Drimoleague is an attractive centre which has shown much improvement and development since the adjudicator last had the pleasure of visiting it. Do concentrate on approach roads before next year's competition.

