

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Leap**

Ref: **50**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **213**

Category: **A**

Date: **01/01/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	20	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	24	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	213	210

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator was disappointed to note that your planned projects for this year, as submitted with your application, appear to be replications of those you submitted last year. Your map was extremely clear and most useful on adjudication day. It refers to a timeframe for your projects and yet no reference is made to this in your written documentation. Always submit your long - term work programme with every year's submission. This will give adjudicators the opportunity to see your progress as the years go by.

The Built Environment:

The Leap Inn was fresh although its sign will need painting before next year's competition. Connolly's of Leap looked extremely bright and cheerful with attractive planting outside. Kikshaw's looked well as did All Things Nice. The Hall was fresh with its attractive hand-painted wildlife information boards. The school looked well, as did the stone church with its attractive grounds and the Post Office was extremely fresh. Both O'Donovan properties on each side of the road were quite fresh, as was Linda O'Neill's and Oasis. The Church of Ireland looked quite charming and discreet in its location tucked away off Main Street.

Landscaping:

Some attractive planting was noted as the visitor climbs the hill on the Skibbereen approach to the village. The large amounts of wooded area and natural stream alongside the road are unique features to the village of Leap. The forecourt / parking area at the garage and undertakers appears quite bare and there is scope for landscaping, in this area in its prominent location on the Cork Road. Some attractive planting was noted at a dry stone wall on this side of the village also. There is an attractive level of landscaping throughout the village - incidental landscaped spaces are working well, so continue with this policy by creating more of them.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Leap is indeed fortunate with its wealth of woodland and waterside areas, in regard to this category of the competition. Wildlife boards at the hall are hand-painted and look extremely well. Perhaps you should get the local school children involved in drawing up a project in relation to the wildlife habitats in your locality. These could perhaps be incorporated with walks through the woodlands in the vicinity of the village.

Litter Control:

On first impressions the village was virtually litter free. However, some papers were evident to the ditch on the Glandore Road, along the Skibbereen Road and blowing along the main street.

Tidiness:

Do ensure that building materials are removed once construction work is complete - a pile of gravel was evident behind a gateway whose entrance area was quite weedy. Weeds were also evident along the kerbs on Main Street. Perhaps a concrete post and wire fence on the Skibbereen Road could be replaced with a stone wall. A badly maintained out building to a new house on Main Street looked unfortunate. Orange cones and vertical concrete posts were seen on the main road on the Cork side of the village - these concrete posts had side reflectors - if they are essential from a safety point of view, perhaps they could be repainted before next year's competition. In relation to the recycling area on the Glandore Road, bottles and papers were evident - perhaps this area could be more successfully screened from public view?

Residential Areas:

Kilmacabea Court looked as well as ever and houses along the Glandore Road were admired. Those houses adjacent to the tennis courts were in need of a fresh coat of paint, particularly at their gable walls. A raised garden to an attractive house on the Skibbereen Road was admired, as indeed were houses further along this road. Do ensure that boundary walls are attended to when considering overall presentation. The new houses on the Glandore Road were virtually complete and some were being painted on the day.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Directional signs on the main road indicating the Glandore Road were obscured by overhanging trees and the large Glandore sign was in need of washing down. On the Glandore Road itself the grass had been well cut although the hard shoulder was rather weedy. This affords the visitor magnificent views to the water's edge. Attractive planting to the welcome sign was admired - this sign indicates the story of the village name and is therefore most interesting. The Cork Road was well maintained with well cut verges and attractive fuchsia hedges. The Skibbereen Road, however, was rather overgrown, although the foxgloves and blackberry blossom were greatly admired. The sign beside the school was virtually unreadable as a tree was overhanging and obscuring it. In terms of signage again directional signs on the Glandore Road were rather grubby with graffiti evident to the Glandore sign itself.

General Impression:

Leap is an attractive centre which continues to do consistently good work. Well done to all concerned.