

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Union Hall**

Ref: **132**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **214**

Category: **A**

Date: **01/01/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	214	210

Overall Developmental Approach:

Union Hall Development Association have put together a comprehensive and sensible three year plan commencing this year. The adjudicator was pleased to note that you had started your plan with a review of your achievements in 2003. The adjudicator noted your ongoing work to community field in the form of construction of a playschool and GAA dressing rooms. It was, however, disappointing to note that you had left the wildlife section of your application form blank and also that there are ongoing problems at the council houses. This adjudicator agrees with your comments regarding the appeal of displayed goods outside shops but do ensure that they don't impede pedestrian traffic, particularly in these times when we should all be concerned with access for the disabled!

The Built Environment:

The Rowing Club building at the entrance to the town is most attractive in stone. The Post Office is a charming building and was well presented. However, it was disappointing to note that PVC windows had been used - perhaps these could be replaced in time with traditional timber up and down sash windows in order to restore the building to its original state and proportions? The Boatman's Inn looked well as did Casey's Bar. Fuller's is an attractive traditional hardware shop and Centra also looked extremely fresh. The garage with gable to the road had been freshly painted in blue, but the side wall was in need of some attention and also sported a broken window. It was noted that a church restoration fund is in place and it will be good to see this building restored to its former glory. The grotto area was fine but the school and its boundary wall will need painting before next

year's competition. The Church of Ireland looked most charming behind its wrought iron decorative gateway.

Landscaping:

Do ensure that you don't gild the lily in terms of floral presentations by an over reliance on hanging baskets and window boxes! The attractive planting of colourful flowers on the Castletownsend approach was admired. Work taking place at the playing fields was commented on previously. The playground area looked fine and the attractive planting at the Skibbereen junction was also admired. Work appeared to have taken place in the vicinity of the grotto where trees appeared to have been chopped down - what are your intentions in this location? The most attractive planting with raised stone bed at the pier holiday homes was admired - perhaps this could be extended to the adjacent area with the concrete post and rail fence or perhaps the fence could be replaced with indigenous hedging in beech or hawthorn.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As previously mentioned, it was disappointing to note that you had left this section of your application form blank. Union Hall is indeed fortunate in regard to this category of the competition given its close proximity to areas of immense natural beauty and wealth of wildlife habitats. The attractive plaques indicating various species of wildlife such as birds and otters were admired throughout the village. Your plans for a bird sanctuary in 2006 were noted and this is to be looked forward to with great anticipation.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good. Well done to all concerned.

Tidiness:

An outbuilding or shed at the entrance to the village on the Glandore side adjacent to the rowing club looked unfortunate, in its prominent location. The car park area opposite the school and church was in bad condition - a pile of gravel was evident here - perhaps some landscaping is planned for this location? A yard area on the main street looked quite untidy perhaps this could be screened from public view? Do consider rear areas as these are quite prominent as you approach the village from the Leap / Skibbereen approach. Keelbeg pier area appeared quite neat although the bollards will need to be freshly painted before next year's competition.

Residential Areas:

Houses were somewhat inconsistent in their presentation. One or two houses were not as fresh as others, such as those opposite Dinty's. The attractive garden to Mount St. Anne's was admired, as was the attractive terrace of houses with cottage gardens on the Castletownsend Road. Another attractive garden was that opposite the landscaped area on this road. The open space to the houses opposite the playground was extremely overgrown - these houses had been painted to the front but the gables appear to have been neglected. New houses in attractive colours either side of the road to the bridge were greatly admired, as was the magnificent garden to Seascope B&B in this location. The pier holiday homes were extremely well kept and their landscaped area to the front has been commented on previously.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Leap Road is an attractive entrance to the village with its stone wall to the waters edge - some attractive planting was noted at the entry to the town with colourful geraniums at the bend in the road. The Castletownsend Road was fine although the village nameplate was grubby in this location. The Skibbereen Road is a steep entrance into the village. It was a little overgrown although the

attractive fuchsia in the hedgerows was greatly admired.

General Impression:

Union Hall is an attractive fishing village with a high level of visitors every year. It continues to perform well in the competition - good luck with your future work!