

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cahersiveen**

Ref: **696**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **210**

Category: **C**

Date: **08/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	11	12
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	210	210

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for a most comprehensive and detailed submission, complete with illustrated map and outline of work on hand. Your association with ACARD Ltd., is interesting and should prove beneficial to the Tidy Towns competition. It is many years since this adjudicator visited the town and the changes have been enormous, especially on the approach roads. You query if you should enter the competition next year in view of the expected commencement of a major sewage scheme: the answer is yes, as it is unwise to break from the momentum generated in recent years. Most town undergo disruptive developments in the short-term and adjudicators take cognizance of matters beyond the control of committees. Such developments often stimulate other benefits: perhaps there may be opportunity for improving other services side by side with the major sewage development. You have a great deal of area to cover and the approaches, especially from the eastern side is very lengthy. We can only emphasise once again the importance of working to an agreed plan.

The Built Environment:

You have some fine public and private buildings in all areas of the town. The church dominates the main street and the Old Barracks is unique and well worthy of appropriate presentation and maintenance. Despite the new approach road developments the new main street, main street and west main street form the true character of Cahersiveen. These areas are full of character and form a vital link with the past. In particular the shopfronts are a valuable asset to the commercial fabric of the town. Of special note were the following: An Bonnán Buí, O'Connell and Helen's Coffee Hse.,

Keating Pub, Cha Healy's (which has been nominated for an award assessment), An Tig Gaedhealach, AIB, despite the pvc windows overhead, Banc na hÉireann, O'Connors Pharmacy and Flower Pot in O'Connell St. D.J. O Donoghue could be superb if restored in traditional style. Over a period you should try to establish the town as a place of excellence for traditional shopfronts. You have some problems in this section and a good deal of dereliction in prominent areas of the town: e.g., the two buildings opposite The Harp Bar. The school on the approach from Waterville has no identity: could this be rectified for next year.

Landscaping:

You have great potential for more tree planting in and around the town. You should plan for less cars on the streets and more trees and pedestrian areas. This trend is now well established in other towns around the country. The treatment of the approach road from the west is superb and is richly embellished with a fine sculpture of four monks in a boat: alas no identity of its relevance for visitors. Also, the grass being cut should not be dumped on the site. The church grounds in main street has some lovely landscaping and a great display of roses. The building housing the tourist office has gone tatty and needs painting. Méan Scoil Don Bosco is well presented. Tobar Croiche Naofa, so prominent in west main street is really disappointing and needs urgent attention. The landscaping here has not been touched for some time and the little pump and well itself need attention. Quirk's floral display is praiseworthy and adds great colour to this focal site. The Sigerson Clifford monument is attractive and well presented. The Daniel O'Connell Park on the town's approach is excellent although the text on the information plaques will soon need replacing. This whole area presents an attractive introduction to Cahersiveen.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have a wonderful opportunity to raise your marks in this category. Wildlife frequents the area in abundance, so all you need do is interpret the species and erect a series of display boards. Consider a school's project via ACARD, this would help to popularise an appreciation of wildlife.

Litter Control:

We applaud you for your involvement in the spring clean up and your involvement with other agencies. There was no apparent problem with litter, especially on the principal streets, so well done in this category.

Tidiness:

You have serious problems in many parts of the town and there is a very high tolerance of dereliction, unattended open spaces, poor signage, unused vehicles, and poor presentation of many buildings: e.g., the gable end of the old school opposite the Méan Scoil, the state of the Pier and with offensive graffiti and the large open space beside the Legal Aid building. The biggest disappointment of the adjudication relates to the C227 Locomotive on the site of the path of the original railway. We ask why transport it by road all the way from Belfast and allow it to be vandalised to such a state. It needs urgent and immediate attention to salvage what is left of it. We hope this will happen before next year.

Residential Areas:

You have scored well in this section and many houses have well developed gardens offering great colour. The large housing estate River View is well presented with numerous excellent individual efforts. Marian Terrace is well presented. The many new housing estates should be encouraged to landscape their gardens well and ensure boundary walls are finished to a high standard. As mentioned last year Fertha Drive is well maintained, so well done under this heading.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Unlike most towns your approach roads are of a higher quality than those nearer town. In particular the standard of road surface is excellent on both principal approaches. The narrow street running parallel to New Market Street has a plethora of unused cars causing unsightly appearance. Many towns are now laying increased emphasis on the refurbishment of back and side lanes and many of these have valuable commercial potential for trading. All housing estates should be well identified with appropriate bilingual signs: this is not the case in Cahersiveen, although the metal signs around the main streets are very effective. Finally,

General Impression:

The town was buzzing with high numbers of tourists on a fine June day and visitors are obviously attracted to the beauty and character of this area. Your efforts in enhancing the town's environment are commendable and making an important contribution to the social and economic fabric of the area. You have potential for high scoring in the competition and we urge you to adhere to your plan, bring the various agencies and in particular the community with you. Good luck for 2005.