

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Murrisk**

Ref: **625**

County: **Mayo**

Mark: **246**

Category: **B**

Date: **31/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	41
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	38	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	33
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	246	238

Overall Developmental Approach:

It was a real pleasure to return to Murrisk as an adjudicator, having previously visited the area a few years ago. There is a very special feeling about the Murrisk area; a great feeling of peace in an area that is so beautifully presented by your Committee and your many helpers and supporters. Thank you for the comprehensive documentation together with the Clew Bay Archaeological Trail - a most interesting booklet. The Newsletter is an excellent way of telling the community what you are doing. Have you considered including a copy of the Tidy Towns Report for 2004 in this at some stage? Murrisk is a difficult area for you to present for a number of reasons. You have high levels of both passing and visiting traffic. The adjudicator looks forward to reading The Village Plan No. 2 that will guide your work for at least the next five years. This is essential to give you a clear vision of what you wish to achieve in the years ahead.

The Built Environment:

The built environment thankfully plays a low key in the overall situation in Murrisk. The natural environment is above all important. The renovation of the two storey building in the village is noted and the new footbridges are an excellent addition to the local amenities. The Grotto was beautifully presented on adjudication day, and the flowers and flower tubs here provide a beautiful setting for the Grotto. The stone facing to the toilet block helps to blend this building into the landscape. The Community Centre building is an excellent example of how new development can blend well with existing buildings and the surrounding environment. It is the adjudicator's view that the Famine

Memorial is one of the most beautiful memorials in the country. In some respects it has a stark simplicity that says so much about emigration from the area in poorer times. The nearby very modern stainless steel footbridge provides a nice contrast to the story told by the famine ship nearby. The Cambell frontage is most attractive, a strong colour and very simple wording over the door. The Abbey has a magnificent location by the shore and the nearby car park looked well on adjudication day.

Landscaping:

There are so many examples of great landscaping in Murrisk, and the re-planting along the roadside appears to be coming on well. The new chain link fencing is simple yet effective. On the approach from Louisburgh a beautiful landscaped area caught the eye near the 40 MPG signs. The landscaping in the main car park has matured well and again was extremely well presented.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The shore walks are a great addition to the area. The Pond has matured well and the ducks and geese here seem to be quite happy with life! The Pond looks extremely well surrounded by the very attractively cut grass. The adjudicator was pleased to read that the bird boxes have been a success. The Pier area was extremely well presented and the grassed areas here very neat and tidy.

Litter Control:

You are putting great emphasis on litter control on a year round basis and this is showing excellent results. On adjudication day litter control was very good but litter was noted outside some premises on the main road. Congratulations to Murrisk on doing so well in the Litter Action League.

Tidiness:

Your long term plans to have cables under-grounded by Eircom is indeed well worth following up but as you may know it can be very expensive. Murrisk was very tidy on adjudication day.

Residential Areas:

A high standard of presentation was noted in regard to private houses and house owners are obviously playing an important role in your overall plans for Murrisk. Good examples of private landscaping were also seen and properties are generally being well maintained.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Murrisk na Boll road has been greatly improved and stone walls in the area rebuilt. The Pier repairs near the Abbey are a great improvement. Both main approach roads from Westport and Louisburgh were very impressive, and create a real desire for the visitor to stop and explore Murrisk. More minor approach roads were also very well presented.

General Impression:

Murrisk is a very special place deserving very special attention. It is indeed getting such attention from your dedicated committee and supporting individuals and agencies. Congratulations to all involved?

Second Round Adjudication:

Congratulations on another good presentation. Especially commended were the neat grass verges well out the approach roads. Such neat trimming of verges with the wild growth behind is

absolutely appropriate. The community of Murrisk is clearly very dedicated and enthusiastic . Just a few papers were noted this time, also what appeared to be a bag of rubbish near the bus stop. One or two yards and old buildings could have been improved. Perhaps further indigenous tree planting could be undertaken in the main carpark.