

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Freemount**

Ref: **44**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **169**

Category: **A**

Date: **21/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	21	19
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	20	17
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	20
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	169	162

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission and detailed listing of premises. We are unaware if you are working to an agreed plan and we would welcome information on you work programme and any plans you have for the future, although we notice last year's adjudication mentions a five year plan from 2004. You have quite a large area under adjudication and many challenges await you as you aim for improvement. We liked the linear outline of the village and you have many traditional features of interest.

The Built Environment:

Many of your large buildings suggest a busy farming community and some betray a sense of former glory, e.g., the former creamery. The Waterworks building is interesting: is it still in use?. Its presentation leaves a lot to be desired and is in fact quite unsightly on this prominent site. Even the painting of the boundary wall would improve. The large Community Centre is demanding on maintenance. Its environs are very untidy and it also needs an appropriate sign. Kerry agribusiness is a let-down and should be improved. You should alert the company to your dissatisfaction with its appearance. The church and grotto were well presented.

Landscaping:

The tree planting in the village centre is equal to any witnessed by this adjudicator. Indeed, it illustrates the value of tree planting and should act as a stimulus for you to embark on further tree planting in open spaces, including car parks and approach roads. There is no need to embellish the base of the trees with flower planting as the trees are distinctive on their own. We commend the individual effort for tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes, all of which contribute colour to the village. The rich display of window boxes and hanging baskets on the old school provides a welcome introduction to the village and likewise the display of flowers at the bridge on at the other end of the village was attractive.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have good opportunity to raise your marks in this category and the stream running adjacent to the village and in particular the River Allow offer potential for the promotion of wildlife. Many centres are now getting the involvement of school pupils to carry out projects aimed at increasing wildlife awareness. You have numerous locations in and around the village suitable for development. Advice is readily available and the Heritage Council in Kilkenny have published a book that will guide you towards success.

Litter Control:

In general Litter control is good and the village was well equipped with litter bins. Your problem area is at the rear of the community hall and this area is in need of a clean up. Rear areas are now an integral part of the adjudication system.

Tidiness:

You have problems with many poorly presented open spaces. Many of these are abandoned with nobody looking after them and they project an untidy image. This is a common problem for committees and will only be tackled over a period. It is important to maintain former developments to a high standard and before embarking on new developments you should ensure current developments are of an acceptable standard.

Residential Areas:

The housing estates mentioned last year were well presented and some individuals have worked hard in creating attractive roadside gardens. You have some problems with boundary walls and this can best be tackled by community endeavour. You might consider a local competition for residential areas as this has proved very successful in other areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

While the village core is of a high standard many approach roads are poor in presentation. Back areas and side areas now form a core part of the adjudication system, so it is important to pay attention to these areas, especially those visible from the roadside. There is a weakness in signage and this extends to public premises. Signs should be well designed and well presented.

General Impression:

You have raised your marks this year and you now need to revisit your four-year plan. It is important to bring the community with you in your endeavours and also to strengthen your links with the local authority and other relevant agencies. The village has potential for much improvement and the traditional features of the area are worthy of protection. In your entry for next year do let us know of your work programme and any recent developments underway.

