

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Belgooly**

Ref: **125**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **191**

Category: **B**

Date:

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	24	23
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	20
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	191	186

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission and sketch map of the village and surrounding area. Making a first time visit to Belgooly one is struck by the amount of constant through traffic. Of course the other feature is the intensive house building on almost every approach road. This has implications for your environmental work as you witness the rapid population growth in and around the village. The village that so many people grew up in is now no more and you are going to have to plan accordingly as people integrate with new surroundings. Your plan will prove helpful as you progress.

The Built Environment:

You have an inordinate amount of poorly presented old and unused buildings requiring attention. The mill is now quite dangerous and in a most uninviting state and is prone to dumping. Other derelict buildings are in the area near the stream and these of course are located in a valuable site, so it is probable that development will take place in the future. The public buildings mentioned last year looked well again and some have rich landscaping. The rear of The Huntsman is very untidy and needs attention. The GAA complex is very poor and would benefit from an extensive development programme: is there any planned? The Convenience Store is well presented with some good landscaping. This is a focal point in the village.

Landscaping:

We liked the landscaping development at the bridge and also at the Kinsale approach opposite the wildlife display board. We feel the board should be moved to a safer location as cars are unlikely to stop here, or indeed at the sculpture mini lay-by. Well done to all the individuals who have gone to great trouble with hanging baskets, window boxes, tubs and other flower containers: indeed there is good floral display throughout. The flower tubs near the stream opposite the bike shop need replacement and the area around them has gone wild. The area around the new tree planting outside the GAA club needs attention: you might need more soil to present these trees to a high standard.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Even though the stream is small it is attractive to wildlife. You should consider a clean-up of the stream and create an amenity near it. You have plenty of opportunity to raise your marks in this section and the estuary provides you with a plethora of wildlife.

Litter Control:

We commend you on your efforts with litter and compliment you on your three nights a week activity. The village had no serious problem and litter bins seemed adequate in numbers. We also commend Cork Co. Council for their sustained efforts with litter control in the various Tidy Towns centres.

Tidiness:

You have serious problems here, emanating principally from many unattended open spaces, derelict buildings, poorly presented boundary walls and untidy side and back entrances. The Engineering plant could be much improved with little effort.

Residential Areas:

You are experiencing a virtual boom of house building and a population explosion. You need to identify new housing estates with appropriate bilingual signs. The estate at Riverbank needs improved landscaping and the development here is very sporadic. You have a serious road disturbance at Cluain an Óir which we hope will be rectified when housing development is complete. We notice a good deal of rusty corrugated iron roofs needing attention. The terraced housing on the Ballinderisk approach blend in well with the village environs and most are presented to a high standard. Their presence also strengthens the core of the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The embellishment of the village sign on the Ballinderisk approach is attractive, so well done to the individual effort here. The two principal approach roads are good and we very much welcome the cycle path. However, the other two approach roads are poor with below standard road care and overgrown margins. We would discourage the use of chainlink fencing as is evident on the Cork approach: it should be removed as soon as feasible. As mentioned earlier some side and rear entrances are really untidy and need attention. These areas are now a core part of the adjudication system.

General Impression:

The village had an air of high development and dense through traffic, which was reflected in a busy Convenience Store and a good movement of people, stopping and seeking a service. Your challenge is to ensure new residents feel part of the village and try and recruit new and extra members. Your plans need to be extended to include more development and this is best done in partnership with the various relevant agencies, especially the Cork Co. Council. In all of this it will be necessary to bring

the community with you in your endeavours. We wish you well for 2006.

Second Round Adjudication: