

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Blarney**

Ref: **223**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **220**

Category: **D**

Date: **13/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	29	29
Litter Control	40	22	21
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	220	215

Overall Developmental Approach:

The community is obviously working on the maintenance of projects in the vicinity which have already been developed. Large numbers of people visit this very attractive village and one of the results of this is that the community has to continue to ensure that these visitors, as well as local people, enjoy an environment free of litter. It is good to note that, judging from your submission, the committee is very much aware of this. It is also encouraging that the local community supports your fundraising efforts and this does provide great support and incentivises your overall efforts to make Blarney a better place.

The Built Environment:

The standard of buildings throughout the village is generally good. For example the school buildings in the village, Scoil Naisiunta - Scoil an Croi Naofa an Blarna and Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal were well maintained. The premises of Cumann Luthchleas Gael, an Bhlarna were also nicely presented. The Garda Station and Post Office premises also looked well. Both the Catholic church and the Church of Ireland are two prominent buildings in the village and both are very well maintained. The commercial premises in the centre of the village were well presented. It is noted that the missing letters in the Credit Union premises have not been replaced. The Sisters of Charity premises were very tastefully presented.

Landscaping:

The landscaping work which has been carried out in the vicinity of the village in recent years is well maintained, for example in the Children's Park area and at Inchancomin Park. New landscaping work has been carried out at the junction across from Scoil Mhuire gan Smal; the use of natural stone as a surround for this landscaping looks well. The tree planting which has been carried out near the new housing development at Woodfield will enhance this area. The mature woodland in the vicinity of the Blarney Castle estate is a great asset and provides a very pleasant background.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Martin river is a valuable asset for the community and no doubt provides habitat for many wildlife species. It is a good initiative for your Development Group to take steps to complete the walk-way along the river. The completion of this would provide a valuable amenity for both local residents and visitors to the area. A lot of good work has been carried out at the Clogheenmilcon sanctuary and this area provides habitat for many wildlife species. Also the Children's Woodland Park across from the Sanctuary is a valuable amenity and is very well maintained. A further amenity which has been carried out is Inchancomin Park but this area would need to be better maintained. The Village Green is a magnificent area and an important focal point for the village.

Litter Control:

With so many visitors coming to the village, there obviously has to be continuous watch for litter. Your "Litter Alert" campaign is noted and this is a good initiative. It will help to create and maintain an awareness of this problem which is common to all areas throughout the country. The amenity of Inchancomin Park is a valuable one but there was a considerable amount of litter here at the time of adjudication. There seemed to be no litter bin in the vicinity and perhaps your committee should take steps to remedy this situation. Litter seemed to be under control in the busy areas of the Post Office and the entrance to Blarney Castle. In the centre of the village too there was little evidence of any litter. A considerable quantity of cigarette ends were noted outside some licensed premises and this problem would need to be tackled.

Tidiness:

Overall there was generally a good level of tidiness throughout the village. However in those areas in and around the village where building work is in progress, these are obviously untidy but it should be ensured that on completion all such areas are tidied up. The village Green area is a large valuable open green space and this area was quite tidy. Those areas in the vicinity of shops and schools were also quite tidy. The Development Group should continue to remind all commercial premises and indeed all residents to play their part in maintaining a tidy environment through the village.

Residential Areas:

The residential areas in the vicinity of the village are expanding as more housing development commences. Many of the existing residential areas in and around the village are very well maintained such as Castleowen where the green area was very neatly trimmed. Also the houses at Mangerton Terrace were very nicely presented. Also the area of Monacappa - Glenview Heights, houses and gardens were well presented. The entrance to Ard Dara residential area was attractively landscaped. In this section of the competition all householders can play their part and it is an important part of the competition as the efforts made here will enhance the residents' own house or garden but also benefit the overall visual aspect of the area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Overall the condition of roads and streets in and around the village was quite good. The approach road from Tower was quite tidy. The approach road from Waterloo was also quite good. However

coming to the village from this approach, repairs are necessary to the stone wall on the left. Also the surface of a footpath here would need to be attended to. The Mallow/Cork approach road was in good condition. The commemorative stone plaque "Droicead Inse an Comain - Inchancomin Bridge 1994" near the Wildlife Sanctuary is an interesting feature. The streets and footpaths in the vicinity of the village were generally clean and tidy. The grotto near the national school is very nicely maintained.

General Impression:

This is a village which attracts large numbers of visitors each year and the local community obviously deals well with this influx. As already acknowledged, these numbers present problems for the community by way of maintaining a tidy environment and the work being done for the Tidy Towns Competition no doubt makes a significant contribution towards dealing with these matters. The Development Group should therefore continue with the efforts which are being made and by pursuing a planned course for development, further success will be attained.

Second Round Adjudication: