

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrigaline**

Ref: **619**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **224**

Category: **F**

Date: **08/09/2005**

|                                | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2005 | Mark Awarded 2004 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50           | 40                | 40                |
| The Built Environment          | 40           | 31                | 30                |
| Landscaping                    | 40           | 30                | 29                |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30           | 23                | 23                |
| Litter Control                 | 40           | 25                | 24                |
| Tidiness                       | 20           | 15                | 15                |
| Residential Areas              | 30           | 27                | 27                |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 40           | 26                | 25                |
| General Impression             | 10           | 7                 | 7                 |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>300</b>   | <b>224</b>        | <b>220</b>        |

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The Carrigaline Tidy Towns Committee is obviously active and continues to work on the three year plan which has been drawn up. There is still a lot of development work taking place in the vicinity of the town and this does not make the work of the committee any easier. It does however emphasise the necessity for an active Tidy Towns Committee, where for example you monitor all new developments and try to influence for good such developments. The committee should continue its work in this regard.

### The Built Environment:

The standard of building work generally in the vicinity of the town is good and is blending in quite well in what is a rapidly developing town. School buildings in the town such as St. John's National School and Muire Lourdes National School and school near the Catholic church are very well presented. Public buildings such as the Library and the Garda Station are well maintained. Both the Catholic church and the Church of Ireland church of St. Mary's are both excellently maintained; the latter is a particularly attractive old building. The Carrigaline Community Hall is a fine building and is excellently maintained by the community. Another community building, that of the Carrigaline Hurling and Football Club, again a building which is maintained to a very high standard. The large new building of the hotel blends in well and is very well presented. The busy Carrigaline Shopping Centre is well presented. Some of the older buildings in the town do need attention and the committee should continue with efforts to improve these situations. As indicated the general

standard of buildings in the town is good and it is important that this encompasses the entire town as far as possible.

### **Landscaping:**

There are several examples of fine landscaping work in the vicinity of the town. The landscaping work at Heron's Wood is of a very high standard and is an asset to this area of the town. The landscaping carried out in the vicinity of the hotel looks well and as it matures will enhance this area considerably. In almost all of the residential areas developments there seems to be a good accompanying programme of landscape work. The flower tub planting at the Bridge area is colourful. Your idea of organising a landscape award locally is a very good one and no doubt this has influenced the overall standard of landscaping in the vicinity.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The river seems to be clean generally and this is an important habitat source for many wildlife species apart from presenting a very pleasant environment. That area along the riverside walk is an important amenity area in the town but in addition the natural cover along here is good for wildlife. This project is a good example of working in cooperation with the Local Authority and local bodies such as the Lions Club. The committee should continue to enhance the area by continuing the planting programme with appropriate species of flowers and plants which may encourage more wildlife to the area.

### **Litter Control:**

It is encouraging that Carrigaline did quite well in the Local Authority run Anti Litter Campaign. This should prove an encouragement for improvement. But the setting up of your local Task Force is also a positive step provided action is taken as a result. In an area which is expanding the problem of litter will persist and this is a good reason to have the type of litter clean-ups which you are now organising. The situation would seem to have improved to some extent but there is still obviously room for improvement. There was some litter in the area of the public library. Also despite a litter bin being in place there was a considerable amount of litter near the telephone kiosk across from the Catholic church. There was some litter too at the Bing-Bank at the Shopping Centre. The area in the vicinity of the Owenabue car park and bridge area were clean and free of litter.

### **Tidiness:**

There is a good level of tidiness in the residential areas and in community areas such as the Community Hall etc. However there is a considerable room for improvement at the centre of the town. Many open areas off main street were untidy and in need of attention. For example the wall area across from the public library was quite untidy. The area in the vicinity of the Post Office was quite tidy. The green area across from Bateman's Shoe store was quite untidy and this if tidied up could be turned into a pleasant attractive place in this area of the town. The area in the vicinity of the Tourist Information Point in the vicinity of the bridge was very tidy. A more vigilant approach, particularly along the main street area would bring about a more favourable picture here.

### **Residential Areas:**

There is a high standard of presentation in the many residential areas in the vicinity of the town. The earlier residential developments in areas like Owenabue Grove would the large green area nearby are well maintained. Other residential areas such as Sunset Court, Heron's Wood and Water Park are all of a very high standard. In view of the many residential area developments in the vicinity it is important that adequate green areas are retained. This has generally been the case to date and is probably the reason that many of these developments have blended in quite well.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The approach roads to the town are generally good. The road from Bandon and footpaths/kerbs were clean and tidy. The approach road from Cork was also good but additional surfacing is required in the immediate area of the entrance to the Church of Ireland church. The road to Crosshaven and the footpaths there are also well maintained. The surfaces in parts of main street would need to be attended to. The cemetery nearest the Church of Ireland church was very overgrown but the nearby cemetery had been attended to. The Childrens Play area near the Community Hall was excellently maintained. The grotto across from the Catholic Church was very nicely maintained. In the nearby roundabout the heron sculpture is attractive.

## **General Impression:**

This is a thriving town and continues to expand rapidly. It is important therefore that a balance is maintained between this development and environmental matters. The community is quite successful in that but there will be a need for constant vigilance particularly by the Tidy Towns Committee and other local organisations. The town has many natural advantages, the river and woodland etc. and it is possible to have this scale of development and still preserve what is important. The Tidy Towns committee should continue to work towards your plan and you are wished well in your efforts.

## **Second Round Adjudication:**

Carrigaline appears to have an explosion of building developments, which have changed the core of the village very much. Resulting traffic from the expansion of the town and the pressure on all facilities presents a major challenge. Earlier tree plantings are now maturing well and giving good benefit – there has been an enormous amount of tree planting - which is very positive and will result in a very richly landscaped town and surrounds as these mature. The roundabouts are planted in an interesting way and the Shannon Park roundabout in particular is of special note. Housing estates are well landscaped as mentioned above and this is a marvellous asset. Planting was noted along the riverbank. Landscaping at the back of the carpark around by Toymaster appears neglected. There has been an improvement in litter overall but there is still progress to be made in this aspect. The planned work by the community complex will be interesting. There is good evidence of progress on many fronts and persistence and determination will go a long way towards the planned improvements.