

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cill Na Martra**

Ref: **721**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **172**

Category: **A**

Date: **17/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	24
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	22	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	22	21
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	172	168

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission and details of work on hand. We would have welcomed more details on your plans for the next few years and also a sketch map would have proved helpful to an adjudicator making a first visit to Cill na Martra. We feel it is imperative now that you formulate a phased plan that will chart the way forward for an improved village. This would be normal procedure with Tidy Towns centres. Your best bet is to liaise with Cork Co. Council and Udarás na Gaeltachta for assistance and guidance.

The Built Environment:

The village core is your strong point and public and commercial buildings looked well on a beautiful July day. It was a great delight for this adjudicator to view the bust of the late Seán Ó Siocháin, who was a good friend and much admired. The Toy Factory is unique and has a great array of products: well done. It took us some time to find the entrance which is at the back of the building, so you might consider improving the signage of the building itself. The church is well presented and has many traditional features inside. The adjacent cemetery is well looked after. The school is really drab and needs fresh painting. We feel the forecourt of the sawmill could, with little effort, be improved as it is on a focal point in the village. Well done to An Chrois and O Murchú for good presentation.

Landscaping:

The landscaping around the monument is colourful and there is evidence of good landscaping in and around the village. This is augmented by good stone work, especially outside the GAA complex and up the road on the far side there is good example of traditional stonework. O Laoire Furniture is really poor and should be improved as it is on the entrance of the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have scope to improve your marks in this category and you might consider organising a project with the local school: this might include a survey of the local flora and fauna. Good advice is available in the Tidy Towns Handbook available from the Department of the Environment.

Litter Control:

This is not a problem and we did not encounter any litter problem in the village. Have you applied for a Bring Bank centre?

Tidiness:

Your problems here are numerous and related to a plethora of poorly presented open spaces, an abundance of dereliction, unfinished houses and housing sites and poor approach roads. This problem will take time to solve and will need the full backing of the community and the commercial fraternity in particular.

Residential Areas:

In general housing is very good and some have attractive gardens and colourful back areas. Some are unfinished and we would urge developers to finish well and landscape before leaving the site. We would also encourage developers to use indigenous materials and retain the rural ethos of the village. However, any plan you draw up should take cognisance of this. Some boundary walls need attention and residents should be encouraged to plant appropriate hedges.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Your signage from the Macroom road is poor, relying on one solitary finger post sign. You should contact the local authority and arrange for a good free standing sign, and also an improved sign at the next cross. You should also consider erecting two Fáilte signs as they would create an air of welcome to visitors. The entrance to the GAA complex is poor and needs attention.

General Impression:

Cill na Martra has potential for raising your marks significantly. You need a plan and more importantly you need full community support for your efforts. The village core is your strong point and we suggest you start there and work out in the direction of the approach roads. Go néirí libh.

Second Round Adjudication: