

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cobh**

Ref: **87**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **234**

Category: **E**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	234	231

Overall Developmental Approach:

The programme which has been pursued in recent years has brought about improvement in a number of areas. There does however need to be, perhaps more coordination in the overall effort. In fact the committee acknowledges this in your three year plan, in the context of work involving the County Council etc. This is a big town spread over a wide area and it is a town where there is a considerable amount of development taking place. The overall aspect of the town is being improved and this should prove encouraging for the future.

The Built Environment:

There is a large variation of buildings throughout the town area. Many of these are fine buildings and are very impressive. The fine impressive Cathedral of St. Coleman's is magnificent and is visible from several areas of the town. The refurbished Garda Station looks well and enhances this area of the town and the repainted Post Office building also looks well. The public library building is very much in need of attention; there is a considerable amount of graffiti on the walls and the wooden sign at the entrance door is badly tarnished. The new civic offices located at Carrig House are noted and this is an impressive building. The premises of Cobh Pirates club were well maintained. The premises of Cloyne Diocesan Centre were beautifully presented. The premises of Cobh Fire Station were well presented. The premises of Cobh Community College were also well maintained. Derelict buildings in the town need to be dealt with. Building works are in progress in a number of areas through the town.

Landscaping:

The landscaping work which has been carried out on the Promenade at Westborne Place is impressive. There is a lot of colour here and the area is very pleasant. In the town centre hanging baskets are in place giving much colour to this area of the town. The flower tubs at the former Town Hall premises provide colour here. The window boxes at the Commodore Hotel were also very colourful. The landscaping work which has been carried out in the West View area looks well. Also the large green area and tree planting at Ait Muiris O' Morda is very well maintained. The landscaping work at Russell Heights also looks well. It is noted that good landscaping work is being carried out in conjunction with new housing developments e.g. The College and this is to be welcomed.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The population is fortunate to have a rich environmental in terms of wildlife habitat in the vicinity. The designated nature/wildlife reserve at Cushkiny is a prime area for such habitat. This reserve is nationally known and it has featured in national radio wildlife programmes. It is a valuable asset in the vicinity but the general area would need to be better maintained. For example the car park area near the reserve, that area where the large display board is sited in relation to the "The Common Tern Conservation Project" - this area is extremely untidy with a large amount of litter strewn about. There was also a considerable amount of litter in the area of the stone steps to the Reserve. The lake/woodland area provides habitat for several wildlife species and it is a magnificent amenity. The matters referred to should therefore be attended too.

Litter Control:

The participation in programmes such as the Inter Town Litter Challenge and local Tidy Districts competition can only help to improve the general litter situation in the town. The provision of additional litter bins together with the work of the Litter Warden will also help. But the community at large will have to become more aware of the problem. It is also suggested that the schools in the town be involved in some way in these local efforts. There was a considerable amount of litter in the area of the public library. Also there was quite an amount of litter in the vicinity of the entrance to the cemetery. Despite litter bins being in place there was also some litter in the promenade area. There was also some litter on the Ballymore road.

Tidiness:

There was generally a good level of tidiness in many areas of the town. There area in the immediate vicinity of the toilet construction was quite tidy. The areas of Roger Casement Square and Pierce Square were also quite tidy. The seating area in the park/promenade area was tidy. The cemetery grounds were quite well maintained. The general area of the Cathedral including the Rock were extremely tidy. That area in the vicinity of Fr Corbett Terrace was also quite tidy. Also the areas of the railway station, the heritage center and the Garda Station were well maintained. The local Tidy District competition should be continued as a competition such as this can help considerably to bring about overall improvement in this respect.

Residential Areas:

There are several residential areas in the vicinity of the town and the standard generally is good. These include many new housing developments such as Clucin Ard and Faber Hill. Also the housing developments at The Belfry and The Spires look well. Houses and gardens at Victoria estate and Ballywilliam estate look well but the grass at Victoria estate would need to be trimmed more frequently. Also houses and gardens at Donelan Terrace and Barrymore Avenue were nicely presented. As indicated a generally good level prevailed in this category and it is a good idea that in many of the residential developments attention is being given at an early stage to the landscaping

work and this is an important aspect of residential development. The lovely old terraced cottages at Newtown village were very nicely presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The condition of approach roads to the town were generally good. The road from Cork was quite tidy and the footpaths and kerbs here were clean. As indicated there was some litter on the Ballymore road and this would need to be watched. The open space across from Cobh Pirated was very untidy, overgrown and in need of attention. The entrance to Pairc Uí Conaill playing field was quite tidy. The entrance to St Benedicts Priory was neatly maintained. The new footpaths being constructed across from the cemetery improve this area. The grotto on the Cork road approach and the Veronica O'Sullivan memorial grotto were both excellently maintained. The street sculptures of "The Navigator" and the Annie Moore looked well and are well maintained. The large Lusitania memorial in Roger Casement Square is also well maintained.

General Impression:

Cobh is a beautifully located town overlooking a fine harbour. There is an old world atmosphere in the town and despite new developments it is important that this be maintained. The town is progressing and there are many fine improvements in the promenade area and also in the many residential areas. The Tidy Towns group in working to a plan is going in the right direction but it is important that a coordinated approach is maintained with the local council and the County Council where relevant. The town now has a good foundation on which to work for the future.

Second Round Adjudication:

At second adjudication Cobh was very busy with tourists and the towns facilities were being put to the test. Cobh is a very large and diverse town with many fine facilities. The sports fields were being well used and appear very well and the Cushkinny reserve has become nationally known. In the main part of the town by the waterfront litter continues to be an issue.. Good efforts are being made and the initiatives are acknowledged. While large pieces of litter seem to be collected there is a huge amount of small pieces of litter strewn over the main areas – cigarette butts, small pieces of paper and plastic – people with litter pickers were noted – these do not remove the litter just described and a firm brushing or vacuuming is needed. Litter is trapped beneath the wall at the side of the Sirius Art Centre. The Kennedy Park was looking particularly well and very well utilised. The colourful displays both in the park and along streets gives a lovely summer appearance. A small green area along the " Pack of Cards Houses" street has bindweed taking over the background. Attention to the walls of the Library/Courthouse has been mentioned before- the graffiti, and the broken down pipe. So many business premises have improved their general appearance of décor and paint that it is a pity there remains a core needing attention. Weed growth (Buddleias) from rooftops at Pearce's Square seem to be there a long time. The railing at the Kennedy Pier needs attention as also does the railings along by Harbour Roe. Overhead cables hopefully will be fully removed soon; these are very noticeable in Middleton Street. The approach roads appear attractive and Cobh waterfront is a delight with the array of colourful buildings on entering. Tree plantings are continuing to show their benefits. The new Derelict Sites register and the Litter Forum established are very positive approaches and very welcome – they convey a feeling of optimism in the town