

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Innishannon**

Ref: **410**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **230**

Category: **B**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	33
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	15
Litter Control	40	34	35
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	230	226

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your submission and details of work on hand. The sketch map, keyed up to the various locations proved helpful on adjudication day. Your plans for 2005 and beyond should enable you to progress further. Your record in the competition is quite impressive and much of previous year's work continues to enhance. Conversely, some of previous year's work is in need of refurbishment. Of course you have your problems, not least all the enormous through traffic at all hours of the day and night.

The Built Environment:

Public buildings looked well again this year and the church beside the cemetery sets the scene. Its location overlooking such a site is impressive: it was also a sun trap at 3 p.m, on one of the warmest days of the year. The high degree of freshly painted buildings on main street is impressive. Some of the problem buildings mentioned in previous years are keeping your marks down; e.g., The Innishannon Marine and environs are really poor on this important location.

Landscaping:

Undoubtedly one of your strong points and the village was a blaze of colour on adjudication day. The combination of hanging baskets, window boxes, flower tubs and other containers projects a very

favourable image for the village. More sustaining landscaping comes from the great tree-planting programme of previous years. The attractive display of shrubbery around the grotto is commendable. We also welcome the restoration of the two houses opposite the grotto which, when complete, will be an important addition at this focal point. However, it was the display of wild flowers at the busy river bridge that really excelled and the bridge window boxes were somewhat superfluous. The view down stream from the bridge was worth the risk of crossing the road during busy traffic period!!

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your displays of wildlife are second to none and we congratulate Scoil Eoin, obair den scoth. More than most centres you have every opportunity to be a high scorer in this category. The wood walk is really interesting and was in good demand on the day of our visit. Well done on the high maintenance of seating and the red is impressive.

Litter Control:

The litter bin opposite The Westgate needs replacement. There is nasty litter trap on the banks of the river behind the derelict house. We notice a planning notice on this house and wonder will its restoration include access to the river from the adjacent lane near Ryans Pharmacy. Litter was also evident at the public seat in front of the arched wall. On inspection we noticed the area fronting the houses had a share of litter. These houses are really well located and have great advantage of village centre convenience and a lovely river flowing behind: some treasure.

Tidiness:

Your problems here relate to unattended open spaces, dereliction causing untidiness, unoccupied houses, one boarded up and poor boundary walls. The abandoned cars at the Tower should be removed. Our visit to the Tower found much overgrowth and some very interesting grave slabs. The Seán Hales grave inscription is most interesting. A clean up of this area is well overdue.

Residential Areas:

The standard of houses is high and some estates excel in their presentation. The housing estate at Mulberry View has some very attractive hedges and well kept lawns. Also Roselawn and the new estate further up the hill has some 'top of the range' houses on this elevated site. We would urge the erection of appropriate bilingual signs on the various streets in the area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

You mention your plans for the development of the forge. This is an ideal site and indeed one that needs improved presentation. We suggest you go and see the blacksmith sculpture at Coolagowan for some ideas. You have some animating street furniture and some artistic illustrations of interest. Essentially the village is one of rural design. We hope this will continue to be your priority and we urge developers to give due recognition to the traditional ethos of the village. The wildlife display map at the grotto is most informative.

General Impression:

It was a great pleasure to make a first adjudication of Inishannon. The village has much to commend it and we hope you will continue your efforts to improve. You will now need to revisit your plan and update it for 2006. You have raised your marks again this year, so well done.

Second Round Adjudication:

Both approaches to Innishannon are impressive with the picturesque bridge and wooded backdrop on the Bandon side and the beautiful grotto surrounds on the Cork road. Good renovation work has been done following the roadworks and the broad grassed verges present a pleasant picture. Innishannon is characterised by the well cared for stonewalls – particularly the arched stonewall forming a lovely framework at the centre of the village. The old graveyard is progressing very slowly and the road surface approaching this needs attention to resurfacing. It is good that derelict buildings are being tackled – albeit at a slow pace. The array of colourful flower filled containers through the village seemed to be at their peak giving a delightful display. The river walk project is exciting and we look forward to this. The woodland walk at Dromkeen makes for energetic challenging walking and is very picturesque. The Catholic Church has attractive seating outside the Church building, which is unusual and welcome. The traffic is overwhelming and terrifying. Hopefully overhead cables will soon be completely removed.