

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Durrus Village**

Ref: **525**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **200**

Category: **B**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	
The Built Environment	40	31	
Landscaping	40	32	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	
Litter Control	40	30	
Tidiness	20	13	
Residential Areas	30	24	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	
General Impression	10	7	
TOTAL MARK	300	200	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Durrus is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission and map with short term objectives featured. Durrus is a beautiful village with an attractive built environment and located on an inlet on Dunmanus Bay with wonderful natural amenities on its doorstep. The short term objectives of the Tidy Towns Committee have been noted, these are realistic and will enhance the recreational amenity opportunities for the community when implemented. We wish you well in their achievement.

The Built Environment:

Colourful, well presented buildings are the norm along the Main Street and these include The Long Boat Bar, Carrig Bui Foodstore, O'Suilleabhán. The Ross premises is an important focal point in the streetscape and the dated beer signs here should be removed upon refurbishment. The school is brightly painted however the paint work is beginning to flake in places and it will need to be redone in the short term future. The garda station looked well and the beautiful stone work on the Catholic Church was admired together with its well landscaped grounds. St. James' Church of Ireland and burial grounds were well presented also.

Landscaping:

As noted already the grounds of the Catholic Church are beautifully landscaped. The landscaped area at the junction of the road to a residential development at the Bantry end of the village is excellent and a stand of handsome mature pine trees were noted. Flower displays to semi-detached dwellings on the Kilcrohane Road and at the graveyard as well as those along the main street were admired for their colour and profusion. The site of the proposed community car park and village green has been noted and we wish you well in bringing this project to fruition.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The diversity of wild flowers on verges on the Dunbeacon end of the village is appreciated. The playing ground for small children near the sports field and tennis court has been noted, the environs need to be improved as the surface here is very bad and copious weed growth was noted. An attractive sign posted entrance from the main road should be featured for the playing fields as the adjudicator passed it twice whilst looking for it and did not see it until the third attempt. The river and its banks which run alongside the playing field must be important for wildlife habitats and offers an opportunity for a wildlife project together with the foreshore.

Litter Control:

Litter control was quite good in the village and on approach roads however a serious litter black spot was the pier which featured plastic bottles, cans, paper, plastic bag and an overflowing litter bin. Building materials were also observed in open storage; this spoiled what has the potential to be an attractive amenity feature as well as a working pier. Well done to those involved in collecting litter throughout the summer.

Tidiness:

Congratulations on the recycling point in the curtilage of the sports grounds, it serves an important need. Some dumping of cans and building materials however were observed, care will need to be taken that the environs of the recycling point do not become an eyesore. An untidy site at a road junction with main street featured building materials which should be removed. What appears to have been an old creamery (which features petrol pumps) looked untidy also and Paddy Lowreys Lounge Bar appears to be vacant. Derelict remains to the rear of the post office are problematic together with a derelict lock up premises near the speed limit sign on the Kilcrohane Road.

Residential Areas:

Residential properties are presented to a high standard in the majority of cases. The estate at the Bantry end of the village was beautifully landscaped and the use of stone to boundary walls has been noted, however the estate itself featured rampant weed growth. Work in progress on a new housing development on the entrance from the Dunbeacon Road together with a vacant dwelling on the same road was noted; this will of course present both opportunities and a challenge to integrate new residents into the social fabric of the community and hopefully bring them on board the Tidy Towns effort. An attractive terrace of dwellings beyond the school featured weedy kerbs and another new estate further out the road is in the process of being developed.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The nameplate on the Glengarrif entrance to the town and another on the Kilcrohane entrance were in need of refurbishment and the surrounds of one on the Glengarrif Road need to be improved also; the one on the Dunbeacon Road looked quite well. Resurfacing is necessary to the road at the school. Street furniture in general is well maintained and a water pump was admired. Wirescape in the village centre is unsightly, hopefully service cables will be ducted at some stage in the future.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Durrus is one of a beautiful village that is undergoing a transition based on unprecedented growth which will present both opportunities and challenges to the community. We look forward to charting your progress in the years to come.

Second Round Adjudication: