

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rosscarbery**

Ref: **366**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **232**

Category: **B**

Date: **08/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	232	228

Overall Developmental Approach:

Rosscarbery is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. The committee is thanked for their application and supporting material which was helpful in the adjudication process. It is good to note how active the committee are in communicating with the community running competitions including table quiz, giving talks and circulating leaflets about the Tidy Towns effort; it is not surprising that you have the support of the local community, well done. You have correctly identified what is your major attraction which is the natural setting associated with the wildlife of Rosscarbery together with the quality the built environment. The village enjoys a site on an inlet in Rosscarbery Bay and a hillside with a sweep to the sea from high ground and facilitates panoramic sea and landscapes.. We wish you every success in reaching the target fund for the refurbishment of St. Fachtna's Cathedral.

The Built Environment:

The majority of buildings in Rosscarbery are beautifully painted and presented to the highest standard. The North Square features many attractive shop fronts some of which still retain their traditional sash windows; public buildings enjoy an excellent standard of presentation also. The Lily House Chinese Restaurant, The Bistro, Rebecca's Beauty Salon, The Abbey Bar in Church Street were all admired for their presentation. The Celtic Ross Hotel complements its beautiful setting with its standard of presentation. St. Fachtna's Cathedral is your most important heritage.

Landscaping:

Landscaping in the North Square was particularly admired for its maturing trees, stone enclosed areas, the absence of wirescape, good quality street furniture and flower displays. The Pilgrim's Rest featured wonderful floral decoration. The green beside the Holiday Cottages was being neatly maintained and is well landscaped. The amenity park with playground, basketball court and landscaping was admired also, however the basketball equipment will need to be refurbished. Stands of mature trees at a number of locations are a valuable part of Rosscarbery's heritage. The nicely landscaped green across from the Celtic Ross Hotel is a fine amenity.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

All amenity areas were well presented and provide safe habitats for wildlife. Swans looked comfortable in their environment. Well done on the interpretive panels giving details of shore angling across from the Celtic Ross Hotel. We note the presence of Slí na Sláinte finger post signage for walks. Both the burial grounds and the boundary wall of the sports grounds looked well, the latter walls had been planted to their concrete block facade which is most effective. Perhaps a wildlife survey could be undertaken possibly in conjunction with school children to identify habitats present and put protective measures in place in the event of further development within Rosscarbery. The wildlife officer in your local authority will be able to help you here.

Litter Control:

Well done on the new anti-litter signs; we note also from your submission your yearly spring clean activities. The village was litter free at the time of adjudication, this is a fine achievement considering the high throughput of visitors as well as the local population. Keep us abreast of your daily / weekly litter control activities and your overall litter management strategy as these can improve your marks under this heading also.

Tidiness:

Rosscarbery had an overall appearance of tidiness at the time of adjudication. Back and side areas were to the highest standard. The Bring Centre was tidy and is being well used. The base of trees are being nicely maintained and kept litter free also. Your weekly clean-up evening, it appears, is most effective.

Residential Areas:

The majority of residential properties are well presented. A few in the terrace located across from the Garda station will need some attention soon. The Celtic Cottages Holiday Home development is admired for its landscaping and the attractive murals; new residential development was noted on Chapel Lane together with the development of single storey dwellings which featured a stone boundary wall, work was still in progress here at the time of adjudication; the road surface was poor, no doubt this will be rehabilitated when all construction work has ceased to the development. Infill residential development at a number of locations are sitting comfortably into their environment. Stoneface dwellings on the main road near Glandore junction are attractive. A charming terrace of cottages on the hill were admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The entrance from the Skibbereen Road looked well with its nameplate, flower displays, neat verges and stands of mature trees. The handsome stone wall lining the road leading up to the village centre was noted. Nicely painted black and white street furniture, including finger posts and bollards are a nice touch in the North Square and elsewhere. It was good to note the wirescape free aspect of this square. Parking throughout is orderly and car-parking spaces are clearly lined. Back areas

are tidy also, including the lane to the side of the Abbey Bar. Road surfaces and footpaths are quite good. Nameplates should eventually be provided for all streets.

General Impression:

Rosscarbery is a beautiful village with an attractive built environment and a host of natural amenities available for residents and visitors. The overall impression is most favourable.

Second Round Adjudication:

Rosscarbery was looking particularly well at second adjudication. All the summer colourful bedding displays seemed to be at their peak and were giving a tremendous display. The North Square was looking very well with many premises having tables and chairs on the pavements to avail of the very fine summer weather. Notable was the high quality of materials used in the square – paving, lighting, bollards and all this combined together with the high standards of buildings to give a very impressive sight. The significance of the metal barrels along Abbey Road by the side of the hotel was puzzling. All roadside verges on approaches to the town were in very good order and there was a great sense of care and attention lavished on the town. Grassed areas across the road from the hotel appeared a little less cared for. Some rough road surfaces were noted as stated above. The recycle bin area was very well organised and meticulously clean.