

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Union Hall**

Ref: **261**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **222**

Category: **A**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	14	11
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	222	214

Overall Developmental Approach:

Union Hall is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission this year which included quite a lot of information on new developments and objectives both achieved and being worked on in your Tidy Towns plan. We wish you well in its implementation and congratulate you on work achieved to date. A number of building sites have been noted and quite a lot of construction work is in progress within Union Hall. You have done well to maintain a neat and tidy appearance to date, however the village is unlikely to progress much further in the Competition until most of the construction work has ceased.

The Built Environment:

The built environment of Union Hall is quite beautiful in the village centre with its narrow streets and well painted buildings. The majority of shops and pubs were presented to a high standard and these included Dintys, Nolan, Caseys, the Post Office, the Boatman's and others. The school was well presented but the Community Hall featured a lot of weeds in its gutters. The church had been beautifully painted. What appears to have been an old cinema and is now a garage / workshop and could be improved to its exterior. Work accomplished under this heading to date has been noted and is commendable.

Landscaping:

Seated amenity areas, particularly those overlooking the sea and those featured on well maintained grassed areas are beautiful. Landscaped greens to residential developments overlooking the pier were admired also. Flower displays were noted at a number of locations and were colourful and profuse. Trees and shrubs appear to be establishing themselves well and those in the school ground have been noted. The grotto is a fine development and was particularly admired for its stone work and landscaping. Some of the old pines might need to be removed in the not too distant future and thought should be given to under-planting here. Stretches of concrete post fencing might be planted with Escalonia or other appropriate hedgerow with a high salt and wind tolerance.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your objective to create a bird island sanctuary opposite Donovan's shop is an excellent initiative and one which will reward the effort involved handsomely. Verges on approach roads and in the village centre could be managed for displays of wild flower or hedgerow. Wildlife in the lagoon appears to be plentiful and the small stretch of strand at the pier is clean. A children's playground near the playing fields together with basketball area has been noted. The entrance to this amenity needs to be redeveloped and the green area inside landscaped.

Litter Control:

Well done on your weekly rota of emptying bins and your gatherings to clean the village centre, also on the provision of litter signs at entrances to the village by the County Council. We wish the school well in their green flag initiative. Some dumping of plastic bottles Litter was observed in the lagoon which consisted mainly of polystyrene and plastic bottles. Litter control was good throughout the village and on approach roads in general.

Tidiness:

The sheer number of adults and children involved in the spring clean up of the village, beaches and woodland areas in the hinterland together with an input from Scoil Bhríde and help from the County Council suggests this was a major event in the life of the community and one which has been amply rewarded in the cleanliness of the area; well done on initiatives under this heading which have brought about substantial improvements. No doubt the derelict premises with the site notice which overlooks the pier will be developed in an appropriate manner in the not too distant future. Although the pier is a working pier and featured a lot of machinery it was well surfaced and lined and was quite tidy.

Residential Areas:

The large green of the council estate looked well on adjudication and might now be landscaped to good effect. Pier House Holiday Homes is an attractive development and the use of stone here is a nice touch. Houses overlooking the pier were nicely painted and a number of dwellings together with their gardens near the grotto were presented to a high standard. Work in progress was noted to a new residential development located beside the council estate and the proposed development for the field adjacent to the church has been noted also. The committee should work to integrate new residents into the social life of the community in order to bring them aboard the Tidy Towns effort.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The entrance to Union Hall from the Glandore Road offered scenic views of the foreshore area and your beautiful bridge; the nameplate here looked well also. Finger-posts over the bridge were neatly presented and the water-pump had been refurbished. New footpaths have been noted and work accomplished for the grotto has been referred to above, however the car park near the grotto is still a work in progress. The entrance to the village at the grotto featured wonderful stands of mature trees and an attractive nameplate. The wire-scape at Fuller Hardware and Grocery looks poor and service poles are somewhat unsightly.

General Impression:

Union Hall is an attractive village in a beautiful setting which offers many fine amenities and which is being maintained to a high standard, well done to all involved.