

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Charleville** Ref: **734**
County: **Cork (North)** Mark: **206**
Category: **D** Date(s): **23/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	12
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	11
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	206

Overall Development Approach:

Many thanks for your map which you supplied with your application it was most useful on the day. It was mentioned in the last report for 2004 that a committee of ten is rather small and this adjudicator would be in agreement with that. Ten meetings a year seems quite few as well so perhaps you could increase those? You seem to have a good working relationship with the County Council, FAS, the Ballyhoura Development Association. Good luck with your efforts to get younger members involved because the earlier that people are made aware of environmental issues the better. Well done on your work refurbishing the Garden of Remembrance and the playground areas which opened last year. You mention addressing your dereliction problem with the County Council please give more details with next year's application.

The Built Environment:

On first impressions the main streets of the town looked quite well. However, closer inspection revealed them to be somewhat inconsistent in appearance. Some buildings had been very well presented while others appeared quite neglected in comparison. The stone Church is quite imposing with attractive rose beds to the front. The Library is situated in the old Church of Ireland and looked well but its sign outside should be repainted. St. Mary's Secondary School looked fine and adjoining National School looked very well. The banks contribute well to this category of the competition especially the extremely fresh AIB with its window boxes. Kimono Boutique was very fresh. There are some unusual features such as JP Moran's attractive shopfront with mosaic pilasters and lettering fascia. Another interesting shopfront with good plasterwork details and unusual Victorian tiles was noted on Broad Street. The Credit Union was fine as was the Convent. The Imperial building should be rationalised to its façade – at the moment it holds two very different shopfronts which compete against each other. The yellow building at the corner of Main Street and Smith's Road was in bad condition and should be painted before next year's competition in its prominent location.

Landscaping:

The Memorial Park on the Limerick Road looked most attractive with its gravel beds. The attractive landscaping at the golf course with its galvanised steel gates was greatly admired. The attractive modern fountain in front of the Catholic Church in stainless steel was greatly admired. You mention in your application that you had a landscape plan from last year whose recommendations you were going to act upon – please give further details of this with next year's application. The GAA ground wall appears quite bare and would benefit from perhaps some landscaping such as a creeper.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Bird boxes were noted at the National School. You mention that the Town Park has been identified as a possible wildlife area. Have you considered commissioning a wildlife management plan?

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely bad throughout the streets, in residential areas and on approach roads such as Freemount. Litter was also in abundance at the Library and at Batt Donegan Place and to the roadsides beyond the Church. You would seem to have quite a deal of litter bins so it's a matter of getting them used!

Waste Minimisation:

At the bring banks opposite the Town Park there is evidence of dumping and weeds. The skips in this location were quite full and should perhaps be emptied more often. Do read your Tidy Towns Handbook for furthering this aspect of the competition. You should also read your Reduce Reuse Recycle brochure.

Tidiness:

Weed control was a problem at the bring bank and to the associated car park and to the car park at the end of this road opposite the Town Park. The derelict building on the Freemount Road should be re-whitewashed in a similar fashion to the old cottages on the road to Batt Donegan Place which looked very well. There are a number of empty sites and derelict sites throughout the town – one in particular is quite prominent directly beside the Garden of Remembrance on the Limerick Road.

Residential Areas:

There are a lot of new housing estates in the town such as Lios na Ri and a new apartment development on off the street on Smith's Road. Another new development was noted at Orchard Heights. Do ensure that these are finished to the highest of standards in terms of materials and landscaping, as this will make all the difference in the world. Existing housing stock was somewhat inconsistent in appearance. An open space to houses on the Freemount Road was quite overgrown and should be landscaped in the vicinity of the nameplate. A charming thatched cottage on this road was greatly admired. Some of the boundaries along this road were quite grubby in appearance.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads were reasonable in appearance although the Freemount Road was quite overgrown with ragwort and cow parsley making it difficult to read the twin town nameplate in this location. In terms of street furniture some of the street furniture is damaged and should be repaired. There are some attractive limestone detailing to kerbs and drainage channels along main pavement areas which should be retained at all costs. Road surfaces on the main streets appeared somewhat rough in appearance and should be resurfaced in the not too distant future.

General Impression:

Charleville is a town which has the potential to do extremely well in the competition. There are a number of attractive details to the buildings and surfaces which have been retained. Its big wide Main Street is its most attractive feature. However on the day it looked somewhat inconsistent in appearance.