

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Mitchelstown** Ref: **657**  
County: **Cork (North)** Mark: **222**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **04/08/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	29
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	13
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>222</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

AROMA appears to be a well-organised and committed group, with the best interests of the town at heart. You would appear to have a good level of communication with local businesses, Cork County Council, the Lions Club, Scouts, Youth Club, and Heritage Society – to name but a few!

Your work programme was read with interest and it was noted that you had set out a clear target date for the achievement of your various objectives. These generally seem quite sensible and achievable.

### **The Built Environment:**

The Garda Station was admired and the unusual sculpture of St Fanahan outside has been long admired by this adjudicator. Most shopfronts were well presented. Of note were: Riverview Chinese Restaurant, which was quite fresh, as was the Mulberry Tree, the Doll's House and Champagne. Unfortunately many of the buildings of the town have lost their tradition timber sash windows. These should be encouraged to reinstate them. The Credit Union was attractive in stone. The buildings on the Square were admired and were well presented, such as the Clongibbon House Hotel and Tangneys. A large site is under construction on the Dublin side of the town. The church looked quite imposing on its elevated site. The Mousepad seemed somewhat neglected. St George's Church of Ireland was admired for its elegance and attractive yew trees.

### **Landscaping:**

There were many attractive floral displays evident throughout the town. The garage on the Cork road created a good impression with its gravel and floral tubs. The geraniums in cascading tubs on the Square were admired. Some of the street furniture, such as seating, bollards and the trees in this location were in need of attention, although the unusual sundial integrated into the paving was admired. Plans for a new playground near the Catholic Church were noted and are looked forward to.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Your work with the St Fanahan's Well Committee in the encouragement of wildlife in the area is laudable. The planned wildlife signage is looked forward to, as is the proposed amenity walk at Kingston College Woods.

**Litter Control:**

Litter was evident on the Cork road, in particular at the Araglin junction. There was a light scattering throughout. More was apparent outside St. George's Church. Your essay competition for local schools is a good idea, as is the project for designing an Anti-Litter sign for approach roads. Work with the Litter Warden is admirable. Participation in both the An Taisce Spring Clean and the County Litter Challenge are applauded. We look forward to seeing the progress in your Inter Street Litter Challenge.

**Waste Minimisation:**

Your active encouragement of local schools to participate in the Green Schools Programme is commendable. The fact that they also participate in recycling, composting and the Healthy Eating Campaign is also laudable. The provision of free composting bins to the schools and reduced cost ones to householders by the County Council is a good initiative. We look forward to seeing progress in relation to the Civic Amenity Site for next year's competition.

**Tidiness:**

The town generally had a neat and ordered appearance on the day. Discourage advertising hoardings as they can give a rather cluttered appearance to approach roads. Don't forget laneways and alleyways that are quite visible from the main streets of the town.

**Residential Areas:**

Most individual houses and estates were well presented on the day. An attractive house on the top of the Square was admired for its retention of its original sash windows. Ashfield Manor estate was admired and well presented. Some interesting new houses were under construction on the Mallow road on the day.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The standard on the Cork approach was somewhat inconsistent – in places the grassy banks had been cut back but the dead grass had not been removed, but the road improved further in. Paving was in bad condition in places, although a long stretch of paving incorporating original limestone kerbs, cobbles and gullies was admired on the Main Street opposite the Square. As you say in your submission, the bypassing of the town will make a significant difference to it and hopefully "give the town back to the people" !

**General Impression:**

It was a pleasure to spend some time in the town of Mitchelstown rather than merely passing through on the busy Cork-Dublin road. It is an elegant centre with its attractive wide main street. It has made steady progress in the competition over the last number of years and continues to perform well.