Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Watergrasshill**	Ref:	**841**
County:	**Cork (North)**	Mark:	**196**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**26/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	27
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	**400**	**196**

Overall Development Approach:

Watergrasshill has now been bypassed and much work has gone into the landscaping and new approaches to the village. The existing entrance roads are now quite dead in appearance and it would be well worthwhile looking into the possibilities in terms of landscaping for this area in order to revitalise them in some way. The Watergrasshill Community Association meet once a month and you mention communicating with the principal of the School. Perhaps you should consider meeting directly with the children themselves in order that they can help you with your work. School children can be a great source of inspiration to the community in terms of their interest and enthusiasm for such issues as wildlife, waste minimisation and litter control.

The Built Environment:

The buildings of the village were generally somewhat inconsistent in appearance. Mescall's appeared to be abandoned and its sign was quite patchy at the Fermoy entrance to the village. It is in quite a prominent location so this is a little unfortunate. The pub on this side is quite visible from the bypass and therefore should be freshly painted to its rear areas. The old National School was fine but will need painting before next year's competition. The Church looked quite charming with attractive grounds. The Fir Tree looked well. The mural of Mahony's should be repainted before next year's competition. Moynihan's Pharmacy looked well as did Centra and Ocean Dry Cleaning. The Post Office should be painted before next year's competition. The Watercress Diner appeared to have been abandoned also. McCarthy's Commercials have planted their front area, which contributed well to the ongoing landscaping projects in the village. The adjudicator looks forward to seeing your work in relation to the Church of Ireland and its new lease of life as a theatre and heritage centre.

Landscaping:

The adjudicator noted that you had hired a horticulturalist to give you advice on the landscaping features that

have been installed throughout the village. The attractive planting on gravel at the roundabout was admired, as were additional gravel beds throughout the village. The grotto on the old main road looked well with its colourful displays of nasturtiums. Dry stonewalling and tree planting on the Cork side of the village looked extremely well. The playground area was being well used on the day.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator was pleased to hear about your application in relation to your bird-watching project at the local ponds. Good luck with this.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good. However, a couple of minor outbreaks were noted in front of the Volvo Garage on the Cork side of the village and a few papers on the road to the playground. A great deal of dumping was evident at one of the entrances to the Moanbaun Wood but as this was outside the village's boundary it was not taken into account in marking.

Waste Minimisation:

The adjudicator was delighted to hear that you will be hosting a composting seminar. The bring bank area was fine although a few scrappy pieces of papers were noted to the roadside. This pull-in road area appears quite narrow in order to reach the two car parking bays at the end – is this the permanent location for this facility?

Tidiness:

The car park opposite the Post Office should be neatened up and tidied in some way. The mural on the pub will need repainting before next year's competition. An empty site with evidence of dumping and/or storage on the Cork side of the village looked most unfortunate on the old road but a planning notice was up so hopefully this will be resolved in the not too distant future. The area around the Chinese Restaurant appeared quite rough. A derelict house near the bring centre looked unfortunate but again had a planning application notice so hopefully the situation will be rectified in the not too distant future.

Residential Areas:

There are quite a few new housing estates in the village. The adjudicator noted your plans to encourage them to erect bilingual signage, which is commendable. Hillcrest Estate looked well and had some landscaping which will hopefully mature well. One or two of the houses will need repainting before next year's competition. Priory Court looked well. Houses in the centre of the village were generally fine.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As mentioned previously in this report, since Watergrasshill has been by-passed the old roads to Dublin and Cork appear quite dead and are ripe for a re-vamp in terms of a landscaping project. Daisies and ragwort on the grassy banks leading in from the bypass on the Fermoy side looked a little unfortunate and dead grass had not been removed in this location.

General Impression:

Watergrasshill seemed somewhat inconsistent on adjudication day and it is to be hoped that it will receive a new lease of life following it's bypassing.