

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cobh** Ref: **115**
County: **Cork (South)** Mark: **246**
Category: **E** Date(s): **03/07/2007**
19/08/2007

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	24
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	246

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed entry form. Unfortunately there was no map supplied this year which accounts for some difficulty we had identifying the locations / street names of some of the items referred to in this report. At 10 to 12 committee members in such a sizeable community, you need to give thought to methods of enlisting additional members and volunteers. Please sweep the sides of all roads as spoil is a constant difficult on all approach roads especially, while matters improve in the town centre. The small scale, iron black and white directional signs are a pleasant feature. Major house building is in progress on the top of East Hill. On the front houses are tall, elegant and many are freshly painted. Scott's Square and Pierce Square are vibrant spaces, well painted with plenty of activity. West Beach road featured a number of small scale shops many retaining their original names, Soldiers Home, while Kean House was a splendid, traditional shop front currently being restored. Monuments, memorial and statues are a feature of Cobh and they add considerable interest to the scene.

The Built Environment:

The Commodore Hotel was impressive while the Cobh Community College Leisure Centre was a fine structure but marred by the extent of spoil outside their entrances. The Charter House, on Harbour Row caught the eye. The Convent of Mercy was neat and orderly while the Diocesans Centre and Bishop's Residence would benefit from repainting before next year's competition. The delightful Rying Shop in deep blue/ purple with its unusual conical roof was well presented and eye catching. The traditional, Mercantile Marine Office looked well while both the Hospital and Cobh Family Resource Centre were appealing. There was good infill housing on the road leading to the Sirius Wharf and the sizeable apartment blocks here also represented suitable developments for this centre town area. The Queenstown Story Heritage Centre was inviting, very well presented and attractive. Pride of place must go to the superbly located Cathedral which was outstanding. An imposing building, the external iron works were well painted and free of rust.

Landscaping:

There was good tree planting on Harbour Hill. Pleasant planting is very much in evidence on the approach roads. The Scott's Square monument to the Lusitania against the background of the Arches, the cobble-lock ground covering, all conspired to present a very appropriate centre and core attraction. The mature trees on the entrance road leading to the heritage centre were good with well tended grassed areas all set against the backdrop of the tall, regal retaining wall. The Grotto to the SHM was well presented. The Cove Ramblers Football grounds were neat and orderly but with some spoil at the wall base.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your Continuing efforts to present Cuskinny Marsh nature reserve in a fit and appropriate manner are applauded. This is essentially a long term commitment. Try and secure some directional signposts to make it available to a wider circle of visitors. Additional signs at the sea front with information on the various sea-birds and shore life would be beneficial.

Litter Control:

The erection of dog dirt only boxes in appropriate spaces like Kirkwood Villas is worthwhile. A lot of litter was present at the entrance to the cemetery at the top of town. Litter was very much in evidence in Elmwood Grove. Litter bins of appropriate design were noted in all the main streets.

Waste Minimisation:

The Bring Centre on the road to the Queenstown story Centre was well presented. The civic amenity site at Ballynoecove is a worth while development. The School co-ordinators awareness campaign is certainly paying dividends. Congratulations to the two schools which have secured Green Flag Status.

Tidiness:

Cobh has a real problem with the extent of weeds and litter at the edges of roads in many locations. Traffic spoil too was a frequent reality at road sides. The foot bridge over the railway was very weedy and does need attention. The treatment provided for the two, now closed, shops in Scotch Square was colourful and appropriate as a short term expedients. Your participation in the National Spring Clean, involving the Schools, local voluntary groups and the community at large is commendable.

Residential Areas:

Cobh has inherited a large number of substantial residences, many of which were well presented. The Crescent Terrace is a delightful, imposing entity. It was disappointing to notice the extent of weeds at the pavement here. Lake Road has many fine residences. College Manor, a new development of houses looked well as did those on Bishop Street. Russell Height houses were very well painted and colourful. The houses in Wolf Tone Street looked well while Cloyne Terrace looked well presented in the main, many houses been painted in bright, suitable colours.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The town name plate on Cork Road was set off with minimal planting only and a more robust display would be appropriate here. Good welcome to Cobh signs on the approach roads. The selective re-surfacing of streets throughout the town and the installation of new footpaths is indeed necessary. A programme of street names signage is also recommended. Please arrange an inspection of all directional signs. In this way a schedule of washing signs where appropriate and replacing where necessary can be implemented.

General Impression:

Cobh is a fascinating town, very conscious of its links with history and with historic events at sea. The preparation of a three year programme, identifying objectives and establishing a time frame for their completion would focus the mind on the priorities and also have the beneficial side effect of garnering additional members to your hard working committee.

Second Round Adjudication:

It was Regatta day in Cobh and the town was packed with visitors and locals enjoying the water sports and street entertainment. Not great for an adjudicator to traverse the many narrow streets of Cobh, but it was a pleasant opportunity to witness the community activity of Cobh and the many attractions that this historic town offers. The town is richly endowed with a host of historic buildings, attractive traditional shopfronts, one of

Ireland's most imposing cathedrals, attractive distinctive terraced houses at Wolfe Town Street and a host of 19th century commercial buildings. We did not receive any Special Awards Nominations for this year and we hope you have a list for next year's adjudication. The Heritage Centre was busy and this fine product is one of your strong points. The town walk running parallel to the railway line is of immense importance to Cobh. The public lighting here is of classic standard. This is a precious amenity and was in great use on the day of adjudication. The tree planting opposite the Garda Station illustrates the value of sustained landscaping and should act as a stimulus for further tree planting. Fr. Corbett Terrace has some weather stained boundary walls and with effort could be much improved. We liked the Wildlife display board which is interesting to visitors and locals alike. You do have a black spot on the square: the two unoccupied large buildings at Casement Square are really in need of attention on this prominent location. It would be unfair to fault you for litter on such a busy day, so we ignored the presence of Regatta Day litter, but we do acknowledge the extra blue bins located strategically for the occasion. You have raised your marks this year which is indicative of progress but we would urge you to read the reports of previous years and act on many of the suggestions contained in them. We wish you well for Anniversary year in 2008