

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cork City Centre** Ref: **1436**
County: **Cork (South)** Mark: **239**
Category: **H** Date(s): **08/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	239

Overall Development Approach:

An important part of Tidy Towns is to unite all the community together to undertake pride in their town and actively participate in projects. This is even more important in a city environment such as Cork. Whilst there may be a committee for the project it is very important to establish good working relationships with local schools, councils, businesses and residents. Successful Tidy Towns committees are generally quite active in their work towards creating a better community. This might include having a weekly walk where they collect litter, adopting and maintaining a Bring Bank or park area, organising working bees for a project such as repainting a community building or cleaning out a riverbed. The projects improve the appearance of the town but also work towards building a stronger community. We wish you the best in your future developments and we would be delighted to see you participate in the 2008 competition.

The Built Environment:

Cork City has done well to retain many of its traditional store fronts and not be overwhelmed by development. St. Finn Barre's Cathedral is wonderfully preserved and easily accessible. The plethora of small cafes and restaurants located on the meandering laneways adds greatly to the ambience of the city. Although there are many new buildings in the city, the overall view is of a tradition style city with small shops. Too often cities can lose their individuality to large shops and developments so this is a very good achievement. We look forward to seeing the result of the work being undertaken in the docklands region.

Landscaping:

Landscaping along Lapps Quay is very good. The use of trees in the landscaping in streets assists in keeping a natural feel to the area and not letting it feel bleak. Parklands located with the city centre were well landscaped and feature benches for people to relax.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Park areas in the city centre are well cared for. The inclusion of bird boxes would assist in drawing wildlife to these areas. Although the rivers are often crossed, it would be good to have a stronger emphasis placed on them as they are a wonderfully asset to the city.

Litter Control:

Thomas Davis Street contained a rubbish bin that was overflowing. As a result there was litter scattered all around this area. The lane way leading up to the Garda station was quite littered. Another area of concern is the bus stop region outside Dunnes store which also had quite a bit of litter on the day of adjudication. Some of the back laneways also contained litter. Overall the city had low levels of litter considering the amount of people in attendance. Cigarette disposal unites were plentiful and this would assist in reducing cigarette litter.

Waste Minimisation:

The Cork City Council and CTO Environmental Solutions operation for collecting green waste and timber from both commercial and domestic sectors is a great initiative. Further information on the work that is being undertaken to promote reducing and recycling general waste would assist with this mark

Tidiness:

St Finbarr's Place had a railing down halfway up the laneway that was quite dangerous and also allowed access to the derelict block. In general the city is very tidy and well maintained. Most back areas were well lit and graffiti was minimal which is a wonderful achievement is such a big town.

Residential Areas:

Cork City has a small amount of residential areas and these were well maintained. It is important to involve these residents as a community to be involved in projects that improve their residential areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roads in the Cork City area are of a high standard. However, signage for drivers could be improved as it was difficult to navigate the city on the day of adjudication. The paved laneways that much up much of the centre of the city were a delight to visit. The paving stone adds great atmosphere to the area and the street lamps fit in well with the landscape. The many bridges that cross the rivers also add to the appeal. However, some of the pathways on the far side of Sullivan's Quay are rough and need resurfacing.

General Impression:

Cork City Centre is a compact, pedestrian-friendly, city that was a pleasure to visit. The traditional village of the city has been well maintained whilst still allowing it to flourish as such a prominent city. The two rivers running through the city, the steep hills running either side and the winding laneways all create a wonderful ambience.