

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Macroom** Ref: **183**
County: **Cork (South)** Mark: **264**
Category: **D** Date(s): **13/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	264

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed entry form, work programme and the April Newsletter. Your committee's open invitation to each area to get involved on a given evening is an excellent idea and one hopes that it has borne fruit for you. Major work is under way on the Killarney Road and the new pavement is very good. The Town Hall looked absolutely delightful with flags, hanging baskets, freshly painted, white and blue detailing, floodlit and the bell all in position and each making for a totally splendid overall view of this fine and historic building.

The Built Environment:

Macroom is blessed with many fine public building in addition to the Town Hall. The impressive Library and Theatre building and the Castle Gates although it is important that the broken gate be removed from behind this entrance. Commercial building also looked well, the Toyota Garage and Upper Court were well presented, the prefabs at the school disappointed and one would hope they will be short lived. The O'Neill's Sport and Leisure shop was very good as was Dineen's Bar - presented without rendering. Attractive also was T M Cronin, similarly devoid of rendering. The AIB was an imposing building while Macroom's Bookshop in West Square looked very attractive. The Supervalu Supermarket and Tighósta on Aichaisleáin were colourful. The penny farthing bike fixed to the side wall of the bar on the Killarney Road caught the eye as did the Old Triangle. The Court House had a great sense of gravitas and it and the nearby Garda Station were well presented.

Landscaping:

The "Bull" Sculpture is a most arresting sight. It would benefit from some form of interpretive plaque indicating its special or local significance. The Stainless Steel Sculpture at the Town Hall needs cleaning as it has become rusty in spots; the D shaped garden in South Square looked very attractive. Planting in South Square has reached a stage where it may begin to obscure some commercial premises notable Castle House. The

Grotto to Our Lady of Lourdes was very commendable while the communal grounds generally at the Castle and elsewhere were maintained to a very high order. The work done in the riverside area has been very successful and this continues to have great appeal.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You were right to focus your endeavours on the River Sullane as many opportunities present themselves in this area. Your plans to promote Riverside Walk and the Castle Demesne are commendable. Wildlife and birds are now a significant element within the overall Tidy Towns programme. You should consult with a local wildlife and birdlife enthusiast or perhaps get in touch with the Wildlife Officer attached to the Office of Public Works who will aid the committee in the development of a suitable two or three year programme designed to enhance and accentuate bird and wildlife presence in the area.

Litter Control:

Litter was well managed on the day of adjudication. The litter bins in South Square were appropriately located and suitable in design. Minor amounts of litter were noted in Castle Street but in general things are improving.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling facility in the car park is well positioned and clearly was being used. While these additional facilities are good in themselves the waste minimisation programme calls especially for a change in mindset. Avail of every opportunity to get the message across to individuals and especially groups. With the disposal of ever more household refuse becoming a costly item in each individual's personal budget, there is usually a good response to the staging of a waste forum in the town. Cork County Council will assist you in the staging of such an event. The message is to Reduce as much as possible, Reuse wherever appropriate and Recycle the remainder so that the residue which must be brought to landfill is reduced to as little as possible.

Tidiness:

The Riverside Park was very well presented and most attractive. The public display sign in South Square is an excellent idea but it continued to advertise some events which had taken place months before. A system to ensure that it is maintained up to date is worth putting in position. Some graffiti was noted in Duggan's Lane. The small Church Of Ireland graveyard, an attractive facility needs attention.

Residential Areas:

Many new houses are in course of construction and this will add appreciably to the centre's housing stock. The new housing estate opposite the Riverside Park was looking particularly attractive. The houses in Castle Street looked well, while the houses beside The Bull sculpture had splendid gardens. The number of pleasantly painted terraces caught the eye.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads were well swept, orderly and neat. We liked the "Macroom Lions Club Welcomes You" signs and also the sign indicating the twinning of the town. The fact that these signs were located a short distance from each other meant that all could be read with comfort. Sadly there was an appreciable amount of traffic spoil at the side of roads on some approaches. The signage for the Bottle Bank and Funeral Home etc. were well presented and orderly. We welcome the delightful new street name signs which are a distinct element of street furniture.

General Impression:

Macroom is a busy thriving centre proud of its past and projecting it well. A number of minor items need attention however and their successful treatment would considerably enhance an already well endowed centre. Congratulations to all involved in this year's presentation.