

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rochestown** Ref: **187**
County: **Cork (South)** Mark: **239**
Category: **D** Date(s): **12/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	239

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your completed application form, sight of last years Tidy Districts Association Ltd Newsletter together with the most useful map. The efforts of your community and committee are reflected with increased marks for the forth year in a row. Rochestown, in common with similar locations have two particular achievements to secure, the establishment of a clear cut, entrance point and to develop strategies to cope with ever growing house and apartment construction. In the case of Rochestown village there is the added complication of extremely heavy transit traffic. The development of your three or five year programme, which you are earnestly recommended to address should take cognisance of these factors and work as best possible to seek solutions. We have taken the Douglas Roundabout as the start point for this adjudication and continued to the excellent riverside walk at the other extremity. The junction at the College and Friary is a real delight and everyone involved with this splendid garden at this location are to be applauded for their efforts.

The Built Environment:

The newly painted and well presented College looked great. The new developments at Silver Birch were ideal albeit partly hidden by trees. We liked the Cinnamon Cottage especially the delightful windows, the Rochestown Park Hotel and their grounds especially the entrance area were a delight. Rochestown Inn was suitable painted, it looked welcoming and inviting. One would question the need of such large scale signage at this location.

Landscaping:

Pride of place under this category much be given to the delightful gardens at and before the Capuchin Friary. An excellent and indeed fantastic job was done on this area and as mentioned before everyone involved is

complimented on their brilliant success. On this road to the main junction the trees form a delightful canopy, giving a pleasant sense of enclosure as you approach the main road. The walkway was extensively used and is clearly a very popular and much appreciated facility. The ground opposite the Inn would benefit from a higher degree of maintenance. Many mature trees and appropriate shrubs are to be found within the centre.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We certainly welcome your plans to undertake the major project in refurbishing Cuthbert's Marsh at the western end of the village. In many ways the wildlife category calls for the encouragement of interest in and facilities for birds and wildlife. Smaller incidental areas often within the grounds of schools can be put to excellent use in this regard. Do a small inventory of appropriate, open spaces throughout the centre, perhaps consulting with a local bird and wildlife enthusiast and together then draft a suitable two or three year programme. Remember that the encouragement of wildlife begins with the creation of a suitable food chain.

Litter Control:

A substantial improvement was noted on the day of adjudication. While there was a sprinkling of litter the centre as thankfully free of significant black spots on this occasion. There is a need for additional litter bin in many areas and these can often be secured by sponsorship from local concerned and supportive firms. But do insure that all litter bins when installed have an appropriate timely servicing programme in position if overflowing is to be avoided.

Waste Minimisation:

The adjudicator noted the sign for the Raffin Recycling Centre but despite efforts was unable to locate it. Additional signage would equally help visitors and residents alike to locate the appropriate position. Waste minimisation is equally concerned with the getting across of the ideas to householders and others to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle wherever possible, reducing to a minimum the necessity to rely on landfill. The Tidy Towns handbook and the Race against Waste literature can provide useful additional ideas and suggestion in this regard.

Tidiness:

General presentation continues to improve. Traffic is and will continue to be quite intrusive and your efforts in connection with traffic management are applauded. Certainly parking facilities near the commencement of the amenity walk needs to be considered if verge churning is to be avoided. Some weeds and growth at the side of the roads and especially at the base of walls continues to need attention at various locations.

Residential Areas:

Although Rochestown no longer "consists chiefly of pretty villa residencies" as in 1886 it has got extensively houses and estates which are individually and collectively well presented. The communal gardens notably on the dramatically high hills present a pleasing backdrop as you drive towards Cork. Mountoval Village and many maturing developments between it and the road to the Friary were well presented with a high level of design apparent in the overall layout and topography of the various estates.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Having regard to the very high volumes of transit traffic, the surfaces on main roads were far below requirements in spots and we venture to suggest may even be bordering on dangerous in some locations. Urgent remedial action is required here. Speed limit signs generally were well presented; one was slightly asque while the tiny village nameplate sign on the Carrigaline Road was rusty and should be removed forthwith. In general roads verges and borders were well presented.

General Impression:

Rochestown Tidy Towns committee are now well into their third decade of service to their community, they deserve the support of all, private citizens and commercial concerns alike in their effort to project Rochestown in the best possible light. Their work at the village green, the old railway platform, the riverbank and especially at the Friary Pond reflect credit on all involved. Please continue your efforts to ensure that Rochestown retains its special atmosphere so well described in the postal directory of Munster in 1886.