

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Whitegate** Ref: **430**
County: **Cork (South)** Mark: **182**
Category: **B** Date(s): **03/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	23
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	21
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	18
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	182

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed entry form and most useful map. The very large power station looked very well and the area outside it on the approach to Whitegate was very well presented. Sadly, weeds at the side of roads and between pavement and walls continue as a considerable difficulty. Good new pavements may help in the long term in this respect but the position need to be kept under close review. Significant new housing is in course of construction in a number of locations. A number of shops and houses in the main street have been closed in recent years, Hawgood while closed was a most attractive property. The large Irish Refining Plc. was well presented but the approach road would benefit from improved sweeping of the kerbs.

The Built Environment:

The Long Point Pub was looking attractive while individual houses on the Hill Road were very well presented. Rose Cottage looked well and Charmed (hair and beauty) was colourful. The Schooner Pub was suitable presented while there were good examples of appropriate infill houses opposite. The Garda station in 'wedgewood' blue, being freshly painted was outstanding. J Russell and San Antone caught the eye. The Great War memorial is well maintained. The former Church of Ireland church appeared to have a number of windows broken while the mausoleum was very much overgrown.

Landscaping:

The tree planting on the approach road with views of Cork Harbour was a delightful introduction to the village which clearly has the potential to achieve far greater heights in the competition. The scenic walk will enable this view to be enjoyed by more persons. The historic, (1873) attractive fountain in the central grassed area would be greatly enhanced if it could be reactivated again. The children's play park was busy and very colourful. Excellent planting at the junction of the Main road and Irish Refining road sets off the mature trees on this latter roadway. We enjoyed the colourful mural on the small house.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The scenic walk provides a suitable location and ambiance for a wild life and especially sea bird sanctuary. The extensive planting at the junction of Irish Refining Road offers an ideal location for the development of a bird sanctuary. Explore with the school the installation of suitable bird boxes as a start in encouraging interest among the rising generation.

Litter Control:

Litter management still needs attention as litter was noted in many locations, mostly by the sides of roads and near the Children's playground. Good litter bins were observed in the Main Street.

Waste Minimisation:

The collection and recycling of drink cans from clubs, school and pubs is an excellent initiative, so well done to all involved. It is good that here is a commercial outlet for the fruits of this programme. See if you can secure a bring centre from Cork County Council for the village especially with the large number of new houses already or soon to be occupied.

Tidiness:

Weeds as already referred to continue to be the main problem. The well painted kerb stones of yesteryear need to be repainted shortly. Sweeping around them in the meantime would also ensure this area is very much enhanced.

Residential Areas:

Thornton Park is a large new development. At the moment the large area of communal grass is not being maintained and just who is currently or in the future to be in charge of this most necessary task is not clear. There is good tree planting in this area but the grass not been cut does detract. The all pervasive presence of weeds outside kerb stones is also a factor here requiring attention. Louton Lodge is very well presented. The large Mosestown Grove new estate is taking shape very well. Árd na Boulkey houses looked well presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Fáilte sign on the large, splendid stone is an imposing success. Grass verges were well cut back and suitable presented. The road surface appears to have been dug up several times on the way to Thornton Park and on Hill Road generally. On New Road it is hoped when the 3 sizeable new houses are completed that the road here will be suitable reinstated. The 80 km signs at the Park were somewhat untidy and need attention.

General Impression:

Potentially a most attractive settlement Whitegate has not yet approached its attainable level in this competition. Please over the winter take stock of the options available to you and with as wide a consultation as is feasible among the community develop a three year programme. Nothing too elaborate but do set out clear objectives for your committee and establish target times for completion against each project.

Thank you for your entry and your efforts which are wished continuing success.