

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Durrus** Ref: **674**
County: **Cork (West)** Mark: **205**
Category: **B** Date(s): **26/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	24
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	10
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	20
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	205

Overall Development Approach:

Durrus is welcome to the Tidy Towns Competition 2007! Unfortunately your entry form was very limited in the information it provided. The map was useful but please ensure that you indicate particular sites on it where improvements have been made in Durrus as it makes it much easier to allocate extra marks. It is clear that there is a considerable amount of construction work ongoing which will ultimately improve the appearance of the town. Your committee of eight are commended on their continued work and indeed engaging with the local authorities when necessary.

The Built Environment:

The school was well presented and its colourful characters were noted. The Catholic Church was neat and tidy on the day of adjudication. Similarly, the Church of Ireland grounds were admired. Whilst the Garda Station looked well the boundary wall was disappointing. Premises that were commended on their appearance included The Sheeps Head, The Long Boat and Marion's Hair Studio.

Landscaping:

The planting at the town sign was pleasant but be careful that the foliage doesn't block the text on the sign! A variety of public landscaped areas were noted and provided a good mix of permanent and seasonal planting. Hanging baskets added a welcome splash of colour and were greatly admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Durrus provides ample opportunities to develop wildlife and natural amenities. Last year report mentioned plans in relation to the provision of a wildflower area - is this still an objective? Perhaps the school children could help you out and conduct a survey of local flora and fauna?

Litter Control:

Litter control was good on the day of adjudication although there were a few pieces noted in the village. Your weekly clean-ups and assistance from the school children is obviously paying dividends.

Waste Minimisation:

Your entry indicated that you encourage the school children to recycle and this is commendable. Are businesses and householders also encouraged to recycle!! Do the Tidy Towns committee lead by example by segregating waste from litter pick-ups and recycling? Have you considered establishing a composting and mulching area?

Tidiness:

Durrus is a neatly presented village. There is a considerable amount of construction work ongoing, which will improve the appearance of the village in the years to come. Residents, in particular should be encouraged to clean boundary walls as it can detract from the overall appearance of Durrus. The old garage on the village outskirts is somewhat of an eyesore with rusted tanks and derelict petrol pumps.

Residential Areas:

A row of detached and terraced houses on the approach to Durrus had been freshly painted and their planted tubs were greatly admired. As mentioned earlier there Durrus is a village in transition with a number of new residential developments. Sruth Mhuilleann is being completed to a high standard and its front row looked great. The completion of this and other developments will be looked forward to in Tidy Towns 2008. The many terraced residences in the vicinity of the National School were well painted. Stonewalls are used to great effect on many houses in Durrus.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Resurfacing was taking place on the Dunbeacon approach road on the day of adjudication. In general, roads, streets and back areas are well presented.

General Impression:

Building!!! It is clear the Durrus is experiencing major changes at the moment that will no doubt enhance the village in the long term. It is imperative that the developments are in fitting with the existing urban fabric of Durrus and therefore will become an integral part of the village.