

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ring** Ref: **690**
County: **Cork (West)** Mark: **238**
Category: **A** Date(s): **21/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	10
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	238

Overall Development Approach:

Ring has submitted a comprehensive entry and the supporting material of maps, disk and other information was most helpful. It is refreshing to see that you hold committee meetings throughout the year and not just for the summer months! Your participation in the Inter Village Litter League is also a good way of keeping up momentum and indeed motivation. You are commended on your networking skills with regard to Cork County Council, FÁS, CLAR and Clonakilty Credit Union. You have quite a large committee for a village of Rings' size and it is good to see that many of your members are involved in other aspects of development too.

The Built Environment:

Ring displays a mix of the old and the new and the Clonakilty approach is dominated by the old Mill. Deasy's, Barry's and Kitty Mac's were well presented on the day of adjudication. Derelict buildings in general have been brightened by intermittent planters, which break the stark stone façade. Your committee is commended on its continuing lobbying of new business owners, farmers etc in the village and the help you offer them in the upgrading of their sites. Derelict sites do detract from the overall appearance of the village but linking in with the County Council is the best approach. The development of a Gael Scoil in the village is welcomed and hopefully the Principal will be of assistance to the Tidy Towns committee in the years to come!

Landscaping:

As mentioned earlier a series of strategically placed hanging baskets, and wall planters draw the visitor to the centre of Ring and add a sense of unity to the village which is spread over quite a large area. The permanent and seasonal planting across the road from Kitty Mac's was greatly admired and the grass was well trimmed. A theme of scarlet geraniums featured throughout the village and this simple idea adds to the creation of a 'sense of place' and helps define the village boundaries. Try not to become over dependent on bedding flowers as this is only effective for a limited time – trees and shrubs have a long-term impact and are generally

less work!!

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Wildlife Birds and Fauna board was noted as were a number of swans and seagulls on the day of adjudication. It is good to see that you are continuing with your efforts to develop a boardwalk to Clonakilty.

Litter Control:

Your committee is commended on its holistic approach to litter control and it appears that all aspects are being targeted. Inclusion of school children in your activities is excellent. Your work with local publicans is laudable as cigarette butts are a major blight on footpaths. A few stray pieces of paper were noted on the Clonakilty Road and also a couple of pieces near the new residential development.

Waste Minimisation:

The schools Green Flag status is highly commended, as is the segregation of the committee's litter. Have you considered composting and mulching as another possibility?

Tidiness:

There is some construction work taking place in Ring that gives an untidy appearance but, no doubt, on their completion they will add to the village. Dereliction has been mentioned already and your committee seem to be making some headway in this regard. You mention in your application that there were no posters allowed in the village during elections however; a couple of anti-political signs were spotted and really should be removed!

Residential Areas:

Generally speaking private residences in Ring are well presented. The new development appears to have a high quality finish with attractive stonewalls that will keep in fitting with the village. The completed houses in this development looked attractive and were well painted. Harbour House looked fabulous on the day of adjudication, it was freshly painted and displayed attractive landscaping. The entrance to Ring House was disappointing particularly as it was beside a beautifully presented residence.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Again, your committee seem to have a firm grasp on urgent issues within the village! Part of the wall on the road to the school is beginning to bulge in places and this should be remedied.

General Impression:

Ring is set in a beautiful coastal location with much to offer. It blends the old with the new and there is a distinct sense of pride in the village that is being enhanced year-by-year congratulations to all involved.