

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Skibbereen** Ref: **693**  
County: **Cork (West)** Mark: **262**  
Category: **C** Date(s):

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>262</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your application form and it provided clear listings of work undertaken and indeed planned for the future. The colourful map was helpful too but in future please indicate particular sites that work is taking place as this make it much easier to allocate additional marks!!! Your committee of fifteen have quite a large urban area to maintain and I'm sure all the help given by the Town Council, Skibbereen Business Association and other local businesses is welcome. Indeed two of your committee were spotted on the evening of adjudication one picking litter on Townshend St and one tending to a landscaped area at Supervalu!

### The Built Environment:

On the whole the built environment of Skibbereen looked well. Baby Hannah's displayed a most impressive mural and the gable wall and the window boxes at the AIB brightened up its façade. Thornhill Electrical is well presented as a focal point and their sensitive treatment of the Sony signage in stained glass was greatly admired. The Fire Station, St. Patrick's N.S., Sports Centre and West Cork Arts Centre looked well on the evening of adjudication. Paragon Bar, Kearneys Well, Dynasty Restaurant, West Cork Hotel, Kalbo's Bistro, Kirby's Shoes were all admired. As is usual in most large towns the problem of vacant premises and dereliction is always present.

### Landscaping:

The flower bed at the Traguma Road was pleasant and Heat Merchants also was particularly well landscaped. The pastel colours of the various types of hanging baskets at the De La Salle greatly enhanced the area and this theme was continued on further towards the town centre. Rambling roses were noted at Connolly's Garage and a single planted pot was spied at Hurley's Garage – perhaps this can be expanded on for next years competition!! As usual the O'Donovan Rossa Park is nicely planted but it was disappointing to note that the advise of last years adjudicator to paint the wall of the adjoining GAA grounds was not taken – maybe next

year?! Abbeystrowney Cemetry looked well as did the planting adjacent town sign. The newly planted trees at the by-pass was also noted. The planting behind the grotto provided a splash of colour and the Lidl Car Park was crisp in its presentation.

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The sign illustrating the Water Birds was noted along the by-pass. A family of swans seemed quite happy on the river Ilen despite the torrential rain!

#### **Litter Control:**

There was a little litter to be seen at various locations throughout the town centre with the presence of cigarette butts being the main offender. As mentioned earlier a litter picker was noted as Skibbereen was been judged and your co-ordination with street reps and the Town Council is to be commended. Unfortunately a visit to the Recycling Point was disappointing as it was strewn with litter on the evening of adjudication.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

It is good to see that there is a co-operative approach to waste minimisation incorporating the Tidy Towns Committee, schools and local business interests. Perhaps some of the local schools could consider taking part in the Green Flag programme?

#### **Tidiness:**

In general Skibbereen looked well on the day. Many business premises are well maintained but attention needs to be concentrated on gables and side entrances in order to maintain a high standard throughout. The car park area to the rear of the West Cork Hotel was a pleasure to visit and had a beautiful 'boardwalk' type effect. The seated area on the Killarney Road also looked well. Some of the roundabouts look a little neglected and perhaps this could be addressed prior to next years competition?

#### **Residential Areas:**

Three terraced houses at the end of Mill Road were greatly admired as they were well painted and had effective hanging arrangements that added a splash of colour. The majority of residences within the urban fabric of the town are well maintained and many displayed window boxes, hanging baskets and planted pots. White Thorn B & B was well presented and we look forward to the completion of the adjacent residential development. Private residences in general were admired on the Roscarbery and Killarney Roads. Some beautiful examples were noted on the Baltimore Road and this location will surely be enhanced by a numbers of residences currently under construction.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The Roads and streets are quite well maintained throughout Skibbereen. The playground was well maintained, as was the grotto. As mentioned earlier a number of unsightly alleyways and back yards detract from the initial impression particularly in the town centre.

#### **General Impression:**

Skibbereen overall is a very pleasant town to visit. Like most towns there is still a considerable amount of construction work taking place and the blight of dereliction never seems to go away. Having said that, the work of the Tidy Towns committee is to be commended and undoubtedly makes Skibbereen a more beautiful place to live and visit.