

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Union Hall** Ref: **645**
County: **Cork (West)** Mark: **251**
Category: **A** Date(s): **20/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	251

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your comprehensive application form, map and ancillary information it was most helpful. As mentioned by last years adjudicator it would be helpful to include a hand drawn map with specific projects of interest clearly indicated as this makes the allocation of marks much easier! Your committee of three must be very busy co-ordinating the working team but it obviously works to great effect. It is also good to note that there is continued co-operation between your committee, the Development Committee and County Council. The innovative 'homework-off' initiative is a clever way of inducing the school children into developing pride of place. Unfortunately due to time constraints and the sheer volume of centres to be visited (over 800 this year!) it would be impossible to meet with each committee.

The Built Environment:

Union Hall comprises a terraced streetscape with a mix of residential and commercial premises. The Post Office and Dinty Collins were greatly admired. Whilst T O'Donovan's was quite well presented the adjoining galvanised roofed premises detracted from the street. Weeds were apparent from the gutters and it gave a feeling of dereliction.

Landscaping:

A number of projects undertaken by your committee were noted including the boat at the Club House and a number of hanging baskets. The planting of bulbs is a good idea in that you are planting for year round impact rather than purely the summer months. Caseys Bar had a colourful display of geraniums and the Boatmans Inn was also neat and had a suitable level of planting given its kerbside location.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Union Hall is in the enviable position of being a coastal village with an abundance of natural wildlife and vegetation. The completion of your walking trail detailing aspects of flora and fauna will be greatly anticipated in next years competition.

Litter Control:

Your litter rota is proving very effective, as there was minimal litter visible on the day of adjudication. Some cigarette butts were identified but on the whole Union Hall is almost litter free. The participation of your local Centra is to be commended in the weekly litter blitz and indeed your co-operation with An Taisce during the cleaning of the beaches in May. Hopefully your walking trail brochure will be completed next year and will be included with the Union Hall Tidy Towns application in 2008.

Waste Minimisation:

It is good to see that all aspects of the community are involved in the Race Against Waste. The recycling Centre was noted and is undoubtedly a busy amenity. The schools use of washed mineral bottles for holy water is wonderful and maybe they should consider trying to achieve Green Flag status?

Tidiness:

In general Union Hall is a tidy village and attention to detail is evident on most areas. However, roadside and boundary wall weeds are an important part of the image, and this requires some work. New residential developments with no doubt further enhance the tidy appearance of the village and auctioneers should be encouraged to remove signage as soon as developments/sales are complete.

Residential Areas:

A new residential development is evident at Páirc na Fana and the completion of the painting and landscaping should enhance you 2008 entry. Pier Holiday Homes were looking particularly well with clean signage and pleasant landscaping. The terraced housing facing Keelbeg Pier well and perhaps the newly refurbished one with beautiful sash windows will be painted by next year's competition. As you emerge from the Skibbereen road the first image is of an impressively landscaped garden and this is the general trend right down to Ardagh House B&B.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Union Hall, in the main, is well presented throughout the village and indeed approach roads. Three nicely painted red and white seats and a bin were noted. A rusty gate on the approach to Keelbeg Pier could be improved by a coat of paint.

General Impression:

Union Hall seems to have a progressive committee that have substantial plans to further develop the village as a place to live and visit. One point to note is that the road sings off the main road are in a very poor state. Whilst this will not effect marks in the Tidy Towns as it is not within Union Hall itself, it gives a very poor (wrongly!!) initial image of the village. Perhaps they could be cleaned before next years competition?!