

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castlelyons - Bridesbridge** Ref: **572**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **282**
Category: **B** Date(s): **25/06/2009**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2009 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 41 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 35 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 37 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 31 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 33 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 12 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 20 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 30 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 35 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 282 |

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the filled up entry form, great map of the area and other supporting material. I read over your plans and you have some ambitious targets set to maintain and improve the area. The photographs were useful and it was great to visit the different places and admire the work done. I note you hold monthly meetings and you are getting good support for the clean ups. It is good to see that fundraising is well supported. You are getting assistance from a number of agencies. The newsletter is an excellent way of getting the message across to the local people. The contact that you have with the school is worthwhile. We are pleased to find that the local people hold the competition in high regard. All of this means you have a good overall approach to the competition.

The Built Environment:

There are some very historic structures in this area, and it is pleasing to find that they have been maintained and restored well over the years. The notice boards at the Friary are interesting. Avonmore have visually striking stores around the town and some of them could be freshened up with a painting. I noticed some unsightly weeds outside one the Avonmore places which is surprising as I understand they sell weed killers. The school has a well kept and fresh appearance and it is simply wonderful to see the green flag flying outside – well done to all concerned. The Catholic Church is maintained in supreme condition with great landscaping. The Community Centre is very well presented with a good sports field at the back of it. The business houses are well maintained.

Landscaping:

Your attention to landscaping is of a high degree, with attractive displays of shrubs, trees, flowers and green

areas brightening up their surroundings. The parks and picnic areas are good with splendidly manicured grass lawns. The picnic park at Bridesbridge is a most relaxing location to listen to the birds and the water lapping along in the river, and I admired the poem and the notice board on the local fauna. The 1916 -1966 cut stone feature is a reminder of bygone days. The little park near the church is supreme and I read the poem by Joyce Kilmer (1886-1918), and in this park the grass is very well managed and the new plantings down in the corner are coming on well. In this park was neat garden furniture, trees and shrubs showed off the place to the highest standard. Landscaping outside Kent estate is supreme. The beech hedging is coming on well. The graveyards are in great condition and contain some historical ruins, but some volunteer trees have taken root mainly elder and sycamore and they could be carefully removed as if not they will take over the graveyard and cause considerable damage. An example of the potential damage that can be done by trees is well illustrated where a horse-chestnut tree has burst the wall neat the entrance to the new graveyard. I advise that you could get a copy of a small book called THE CARE AND CONSERVATION OF GRAVEYARDS from Cork County Council which, in my view, is very helpful.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The notice board on the farm birds is very interesting situated at the old Friary. I saw the signpost for the bird sanctuary but I could not identify the area when I drove out that small road. The other notice board on garden birds is interesting, and I admired the wild flowers at the lime kiln. The pitch and putt course is a great outdoor amenity and it was great to see so many children enjoying themselves in the fresh air in the fine children's playground.

Litter Control:

I note you run a parish roadsides clean up in March and April as part of the national campaign. The group clean ups are working out well and your attention to the litter problem is acknowledged.

Waste Minimisation:

I noticed that there are fish in the river and small stream and this tells us that these waters are not polluted and therefore waste, for the most part, is treated responsibly. I inspected the recycling depot and the three bottle bins plus the clothing banks which are orderly and well serviced, but the little house behind them needs attention as it gives out a wrong signal. The green flag status in the school means that children and adults are educated well on environmental matters.

Tidiness:

It is great to see a "no poster zone". Well done for the action taken on Super Bond and fair play to them for their response. Generally speaking the area was tidy, but a local pub and the Forge could do with a bit of attention. You are taking a responsible attitude on many fronts and we must be careful on all safety matters.

Residential Areas:

Kent Terrace and Hillside View are well maintained housing estates, but, could a name sign be put on them. The older traditional town houses are well maintained, and some had neat floral shows. There are some great private houses around the area with spectacular displays of shrubs, flowers, trees and lawns that give an extra dimension to the overall landscaping.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

I admired the wonderful stone bridges and these are great historical features, including the old school bridge. The new stone bridge gives a link to the main street from the park. Some of the roads need attention especially the road up to the graveyard. The signposts are clean and distinct and I liked the small finger signs in the town. The back areas are well developed.

General Impression:

Your attention to detail on the entry submission is admired. I was very impressed with the way the abbey has been restored it was expertly done and one can clearly see where the repair work was done. There are magnificent traditional stone buildings and walls in the area and careful attention is required when doing work on them ensuring the correct mortar mix (very little cement) is used and the traditional styling is maintained. More informational on this work is available from the conservation officer at Cork County Council. The modern stone wall at the limekiln is a great example of what can be done by determination and leadership and I noticed it is almost finished. Some fine new trees are planted at the back of the school and the beech hedge is maturing very well. The horse cart and tankards are great. I read the copies of the of the newsletters which is interesting material. Well done for a very good effort.

