

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Freemount** Ref: **650**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **211**
Category: **B** Date(s): **08/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	29
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	23
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	211

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the filled up entry from. I note you have 15 members on your committee and you hold meetings twice a week in the summer, and you have a weekly clean up. It is positive to find that you are getting support from IRD, Leader and Fás and some others. The parish weekly newsletter circulated by the church body is a good way of getting your message across. You are engaging well with the schools and parent's association. It is good to find that you are getting motivation from the competition to improve the town. You did not enclose a three to five year plan. And could I stress that planning is vital. Thanks for the sketch of the area.

The Built Environment:

The Catholic Church nestles peacefully on the side of the hill and it is very well maintained, crisp and tidy. I liked the small community hall, heritage centre, with stonework pointed wonderfully. There were some nice hanging baskets here. There is a fine spacious large other community centre with substantial parking area. The school is beautiful and tastily decorated with substantial tarmac yard. All the buildings along the main street are very well maintained. I agree the derelict site is taking from your efforts to keep the village attractive and tidy.

Landscaping:

I note you have spent about a thousand euros on planting this spring and this is money well spent as the area is enhanced considerably. The road verges have nice green stretches – nicely trimmed. There are some fine stone walls in the town especially around the community centre. The signposts are very clear and distinct. Some splashes of landscaping along in different places are splendid. The 1916 park is a fitting tribute to that part of Irish history. The stonework is beautifully done and it contains an impressive stone seat, pathways made of paving stones are set in a neat grassed area. The trees planted along the main street soften the

visual impact of some of the houses. I particularly liked the creamery field memorials to bygone days and the old horse-cart with the tankards are great and it is a site of considerable interest. There is a nice shrubbery alongside the Kerry Co-Op premises. The fine efforts you have made with landscaping are augmented with the efforts of the householders. The Grotto is visually striking and well presented.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

I note your remarks about bird boxes, and you plan to put a beehive in the creamery park. There is an abundance of wildlife in all those wonderful trees stonewalls and ditches around the area.

Litter Control:

I understand your remarks about the Fás workers as I noticed great work being done on a wet day. You have a weekly clean up as well as the work done by the Fás workers. All this means that you have the litter problem well in control

Waste Minimisation:

It is good to see that the school children are involved and I would like to see some encouragement and assistance for the school authorities to obtain the green flag status.

You have projects planned for the school to plant flower beds and paint walls. You could encourage the local people to step up their efforts to do some more composting in their private houses.

I inspected the 4 bins in the car park and the site was badly disfigured with other rubbish just dumped there.

Tidiness:

I note you keep the lamp posts free of advertising. The control of vegetation is quite good. The derelict site at the cross near the 1916 memorial area does mar that location, but there is little you can do about this. A house with a galvanised roof is unsightly.

Residential Areas:

There are some beautiful houses along the main street all very well maintained amongst the business houses. The houses in Cois Abhann are very attractive with neat cut stonework on the boundary wall. The town houses further up are very good with more good stonework. Noonan Park is a good estate and I liked the shrubs across the road. Cnoc Alla is well done. Some more nice houses were to be seen at the back of the Grotto.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roads are maintained in good condition especially the approach roads. Part of the road in the town near the new development needs resurfacing. The signposts are clear and distinct. There is a lot of traffic going through the village, but there is plenty space for parking. The landscaping presents a welcoming effect to the town

General Impression:

I would like to compliment you on the good work that you are doing especially the landscaping. I could see the "footprints" of an active and imaginative people. I look forward to another visit to Freemount in the not too distant future.