

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Belgooly** Ref: **109**  
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **222**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **16/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>222</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for the filled out entry form and the map of your area. I note you have 10 members in your committee and you hold meetings once a month. The local businesses give you support as well as Cork County Council and Leader. The newsletter plus the local newspapers is a good way of keeping the community informed of your activities. It is worthwhile that you are communicating with the school and you could assist them to try and get the green flag status. The annual show is a great social occasion. All of this means you have a good approach to the competition.

### **The Built Environment:**

Coleman's bar, the Post Office and Campus plus The Huntsman looked very well and were adorned with tubs of flowers and hanging baskets. The bicycle shop was crisp and fresh. The old historic mill is an eyesore and in a dangerous state of repair, and I understand that there are plans for its restoration. The Catholic Church has a distinctive appearance and is very well maintained.

### **Landscaping:**

Neat areas of landscaping were admired at the bring bank, near Campus and tubs of shrubs and flowers brightened up some areas around the village. There are some impressive trees on the Kinsale road, and other trees are maturing well around the town, and especially near the GAA grounds. There is natural beauty in all those great traditional stone walls and trees making for picturesque aesthetics. I admired the water pumps, but could I, with respect, suggest that they be painted a softer colour such as black or dark green. Old agricultural wheels are restored well; they look attractive and are a reminder of bygone days.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The estuary walk is a fantastic amenity and it was great to see lots of people walking along there on a fine sunny evening. A notice board of the fauna and flora of Belgooley could be erected here to inform us on this subject, and you could enlist the assistance of some local people on wildlife to assist you.

**Litter Control:**

The control of litter was quite good and your attention to this matter is noted. It is a good idea to take part in An Taisce litter challenge – well done.

**Waste Minimisation:**

I inspected the bring bank and the area was clean and in good order, and the 4 bins were well serviced. The landscaping at this point was very good. Well done for getting the bring bank put in place. You could assist the schools with the green flag programmes as these sets the children off on the right track in relation to the local environment. I know well that some teachers have more that enough to do already in the classroom, and perhaps the services of a suitable person could be sought to assist the teachers.

**Tidiness:**

I note you are in the process of getting signage for entry and exit of the village. The old mill occupies a prominent place and is visually striking as one drives along, undoubtedly there is great history attached to this landmark, but its days are numbered. Another building near the mill and across the road from the church needs attention. Some other buildings are also in need of attention. I recognise that there is not much you can do about private property, but you could bring these matters to the attention of County Council engineers, and point out the danger factors of the sites. In the parts of the village that you can do something it was obvious that the area was neat and tidy and adorned with suitable flowers and shrubs.

**Residential Areas:**

I noticed that the old national school (1870) has been expertly restored, and while the function of the building is now very different it has retained its original identity. It is disappointing to find that the residents groups have been disbanded. I inspected Cramer's Close and it is a good estate. Some groups of houses, no name on them, are attractive in the middle of the town. The Riverbank estate is an exceptionally good residential area with good houses and neat landscaping, and I was struck by the way it is nicely secluded back from the road and is very well planned and laid out. For identification of some places by strangers it could be a good idea to have nameplates put in place, and perhaps done using traditional stonework.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

All the road surfaces are in great condition with secure fencing, mainly consisting of traditional stone walls. I loved the little bridge over the river near the GAA grounds. The signposts of the main road are clean and distinct, but signposts on the side roads need attention. Spectacular grass margins along the main road give a good welcoming effect to the travellers passing by.

**General Impression:**

It was a pleasure to visit this picturesque location and spend some time viewing the area. I saw the "footprints" of an imaginative and enthusiastic people in many well kept places. A determined effort is made to maintain and improve your locality, and undoubtedly you have a great committee. The residents groups will have to come on board and take responsibility for their places. I agree fully with your remarks in the submission – well done.