

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Blarney** Ref: **110**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **236**
Category: **C** Date(s): **15/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	27
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	236

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the filled out entry form. I note you have a chairman, PRO and 20 volunteers. The business houses make financial contributions and Fás do excellent work in Blarney. You are communicating well with the local people through the church newsletters. I could not find a plan or map. It is worthwhile to communicate, as you are doing, with the local schools.

The Built Environment:

All the business houses and public buildings are well presented and in an excellent state of repair. It is perhaps unfair to mention just a few, but the schools were crisp and fresh with great landscaping, and I loved the little grotto at the boy's school. AIB, the post office and Muskerry Arms were impressive with attractive window boxes. Supervalu, Horgans and Osbournes were most attractive. Blarney Woolen mills is an impressive business premises. The two churches (RC and Col) have defining architectural qualities and were well landscaped. The office / shop at the entrance to Blarney Castle was charming. The hotel looked supreme. Many other places including the Garda Station were just as good as those mentioned.

Landscaping:

Excellent landscaping was enjoyed in many areas, especially outside The Church of the Resurrection where there were 6 great containers, constructed tastily in stone that displayed attractive shrubs and flowers. The area contained 3 public bench seats and two attractive litter bins and beautiful hanging baskets of flowers. The graveyard of the church was very picturesque and well kept. The public park outside Supervalu is splendid with great mature trees, a large well-kept lawn area, attractive shrubberies at the four corners and some bench seats.

Other areas were landscaped to a high degree with most attractive amenity areas, with good garden furniture, where many people were enjoying picnics of a fine summer day. New trees compliment the good stock of

mature trees around the town. I admired the little walkway by the side of the river and encountered some rose beds in full bloom. It is wonderful to see some fish, mainly trout, in the river and this tells us that the river is not polluted.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

I could see that the amenity walks were updated and kept in great condition. There are some lovely walks around the town. I respectfully suggest you could get some assistance on wildlife from some locals that enjoy the outdoor pursuits. There is an abundance of wildlife in all those wonderful mature trees, walls and river banks.

Litter Control:

There are plenty sturdy litter bins in all areas of the town and they were well serviced. Some small bits of litter were on the side of some approach roads, notably on the road up towards Blarney nursing home and another side road.

Waste Minimisation:

I inspected the recycling area and the 15 bins were clean and looked well, but there was some broken glass on the ground and two cardboard containers for bottles were left near the bins.

Tidiness:

The town was presented in a tidy condition and, for the most part, looked fresh and clean. The weeds are under control and I could see where some weeds were dying off having been treated with weedkiller. Some builder's rubble is dumped at the back of the recycling depot and this gives a bad impression in this area.

Residential Areas:

There is an array of most attractive houses all around Blarney that have great displays of shrubs, hedges, flowers, trees and lawns. The housing estates are maintained in an orderly fashion and some new estates have very impressive entrances that are expertly planned plus great landscaping. Traditional town houses are very picturesque and sported some tasty window boxes and hanging baskets of flowers.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All the roads that I travelled on are in good condition. The signposting is good and clear. The road verges are expertly manicured with attractive grass. I admired some attractive bridges. I liked the finger signage in the town. The fencing all along the roads is secure and consisted in many places of attractive traditional stone walls. There is a great welcoming effect on reaching the outskirts of the town provided by the great grassed areas and attractive flowers and shrubs.

General Impression:

Blarney was presented in a crisp and fresh manner. All the improvements put in place have made it a very attractive place to live in. You could include a 3/5 year plan and a map with next year's entrance form. Well done to all concerned.