

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cobh** Ref: **115**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **269**
Category: **F** Date(s): **23/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	269

Overall Development Approach:

Thanks you very much for the filled up entry form, the map of the town and supporting material. I read the document "renovation and restoration of cast iron railings to the Promenade in Cobh". I note a section that states Cobh Town Council Register of protected Structures now ensures that the use of traditional materials and design is mandatory. I trust this includes those wonderful stone walls. I did notice in a few places that repairs were carried out to these traditional stone walls using an incorrect modern style. We must also use a special, mostly lime based, mortar with little or no cement. Information on this is available from the conservation officer at Cork County Council or from National Monuments, Dún Scéine, Harcourt St, Dublin2. You have made a very determined effort on the restoration on the cast iron railings but it is a pity that local support has waned. I can see that your determination will win out and the job will be finished in 2010. The photographs supplied are wonderful, thank you. I note that there are only 12 members on your committee and this places a huge burden on the 12. It is good to have, as you do, involvement from other groups. You are also getting support from Garvey's Supervalu and other local businesses and I note the Heritage is providing substantial grant aid for one of your projects. It is good to see you are keeping the local people informed of your plans and activities. Contact with the schools is vital. I note you have a number of social events in your calendar and these are great for getting people to interact with others from different organisations.

The Built Environment:

Coming into Cobh by ferry one gets a very bad impression of the town with the 2 run down large sheds with rusted girders and broken sheeting. But on entrance to the town the tone of the place is immediately set with superb buildings. Firstly the museum, the former Presbyterian Church looks supreme and it was great to see church items retained like preaches, and the pulpit. While the function of this building is now very much different it has retained its original identity. St. Mary's national school looked wonderful and great to see the

green flag there and I was informed that most, if not all, of the schools have the green flag. The Garda station is a modern well maintained structure. The heritage centre is supreme, a wonderful enterprise with tremendous history – wonderful, wonderful. But the real gem in Cobh for me was the statues of Annie Moore and her two brothers. What a wonderful sculpture. A study of these statues says it all about that time – the elder looking back at Ireland and the younger two looking to the ship with dreams of a better future. West Beach is very pretty plus the rest of the town centre with vibrant well kept and presented shops that were very busy. It was difficult to get a parking space - what recession!! The clock tower gallery is excellent. The memorials to sea faring are interesting and informative. The seating here to admire the terrific scenery is excellent with ample litter bins. I admired the two sign boards “Angling in Ireland” and “Kennedy Pier Cobh” where great information on fish is provided. The old PO building is nice. Cobh Cathedral plays a dominant role over all the buildings in town, the splendour of which would rival any church building in Ireland.

Landscaping:

I saw your remarks on the old church cemetery and paid a visit to it. Well done to all for its maintenance, I admired in particular the majestic stone walls that surround it. I was surprised to find its name “Clonmel Old Church Cemetery” There are some volunteer trees growing there and you could consider the removal of them, also, when cutting the grass in such areas, it is recommended to cut it often and then you can leave the grass where it falls – this avoids pollution. Ribbon pointing is not recommended on these stone walls. If you get a book from the sanitary section of Cork County Council called the Care and Conservation of Graveyards it will give examples of best practise in relation to maintenance of old graveyards. Landscaping around West Beach is wonderful with impressive shows of flowers and shrubs and hanging baskets with gas light effect street lighting. Kennedy Park is beautiful – what a wonderful layout. The band stand, paving, seating, fountains, cannon guns, children’s playground, The Navigator and the plaques and stones to Robert Ford 1875-1959 and Jack Doyle 1913-1978, but finally the railing. I wondered in the submission as to how it could be of such importance but on seeing it I now know what you mean. It is wonderful and you are doing Trojan work on it, Well done, well done, well done. There were other brilliant displays of landscaping around the town.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

I visited Cuskinny Marsh nature reserve and admired the notice board and saw some great sites of the different wildlife. The beach and wildlife walk to be held later in this year looks to be very interesting. You could put signposts to this area plus off road parking on this busy road and maybe consider some seating.

Litter Control:

I saw your letter to Padraig Lynch - well done. Did you get any reply to this? The control of litter was good. The national problem of cigarette ends and chewing gum residue were in evidence in Cobh but in fairness some publicans were washing and sweeping outside their pubs.

Waste Minimisation:

I inspected the bring centres, at Supervlau and near the Garda station and both were well serviced and spotlessly clean. With so many schools in green flag programmes the people of Cobh are undoubtedly making great strides on waste.

Tidiness:

Generally speaking the town was tidy. A rusted galvanise iron roof near the museum is an appalling eyesore in this most picturesque area. A few derelict houses were noted but there is not a lot you can do about this. For the most part this busy town was tidy and orderly.

Residential Areas:

The traditional town houses in Cobh – many in ascending / descending formation like steps of stairs are most picturesque and displayed great shows of flowers in hanging baskets and tubs of flowers. There is an array of magnificent private houses around Cobh with spectacular shows of trees shrubs flowers and hedging. These sights plus that of the public displays make wonderful aesthetics. The estates are orderly and tidy, and some great shows of landscaping are on display, mainly on the new estates but in the old ones as well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All the roads around the town appear to be in good condition, there is good use made of the back areas and the car park near the cathedral is a good example of this. All the sign posts are clean and distinct and I enjoyed the hand signs in the town.

General Impression:

I thoroughly enjoyed my trip to Cobh and I left with great memories. I was greatly impressed with the little Annie Moore statues. I could see the "footprints" of an imaginative and enthusiastic people in landscaping and other areas. Your effort on the railings is spectacular. - Congratulations