

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Innishannon** Ref: **135**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **266**
Category: **B** Date(s): **17/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	266

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the typed up entry form and support material. I note you have 20 to 25 weekly helpers and you get assistance from local businesses, builders, farmers, garage owners, Gallery, schools and churches. Numerous agencies are giving assistance to you. You are communicating well with the local community and your good attention to this is noted. It is very worthwhile that your members of the committee visit the school and have discussions there and I note that the principal briefs the children every two weeks of the inter-village litter league adjudicated by Cork County Council. It is pleasing to us to find that you get great incentives from the competition to get local communities working together. There are a lot of festivals and events in Innishannon each year that are great social occasions. All of above means you have a good overall development approach to the competition.

The Built Environment:

I see you have a number of projects planned. Almost all the built environment is well presented. I admired the parish hall. The two churches are visually striking and have unique architectural qualities. The school up from the church is in spectacular condition and it was wonderful to see the green flag outside – well done to all concerned. I admired Crowleys Off Licence, Spring House and the butcher, but others are just as good. The Grotto is supreme and the Tower is part of a quite historical structure and I note you are contemplating some restoration work on it.

Landscaping:

Your attention to landscaping is excellent as some wonderful displays of colour from great trees, flowers, lawns and shrubs adorn many areas. I could see the “footprints” of an imaginative and enthusiastic people everywhere. The old horse cart so adorned, the milk churns and the wheelbarrow are wonderful reminders of a bygone day. The traditional stone wall across from the Medical Centre plus the other one near the Church of

Ireland and some others are most impressive. The trees on the main street give a softening effect to the visual impact of some of the buildings. The boat with the flowers at the bridge was admired. There are spectacular views of landscaping of the river with the backdrop of great mature trees. It is good to see new trees are planted.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

A notice board at the bridge gives good details of fish and various birds. There is a wonderful walk in Dromkeen woods to enjoy unspoiled nature and wildlife. I loved the little foot-bridge and style, and it was most refreshing to hear the water lapping along in the little stream. Appropriate garden furniture was in place in the amenity area outside Dromkeen woods.

Litter Control:

The control of litter was good with a number of well serviced litter bins all around the town. I see from your entry form that you have good plans for control of litter. Your involvement in the litter league is a good approach and I note the teacher's involvement.

Waste Minimisation:

I was surprised that I could not find a bring centre in the locality. I read your plans on waste and you have a responsible attitude to the subject. It is very encouraging to see the green flag in the school. I know you are near to the recycling centre in Bandon, but I wondered how people that do not have their own transport manage for recycling bottles etc.

Tidiness:

Two derelict houses were seen, but there is not a lot you can do about private property. Some old cars were left down by the side of the Tower, and I was informed by a local man that these cars are not abandoned, but they are unsightly. Road works near the Pharmacy disrupt the road and footpath. A rusted galvanised shed near the Garda station is in need of attention.

Residential Areas:

There is an array of attractive houses around the town that have impressive displays of trees, shrubs, lawns, hedging and flowers. The housing estates are maintained to a high standard with some new estates displaying fantastic landscaping and entrances to the estates. Most impressive to me were The Spires, Mulberry View, Barr Na Claise, Roselawn and Ard Aoibhinn where attention to planning is most impressive. It is great to see the cables underground at some of the estates.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces in many areas are in need of attention. The back areas of the town are well developed and fresh. All the signposts are clean and distinct. The fencing along by the roads is excellent and consisted, for the most part, of great traditional stone walls. The approaches on the main road especially on the Cork side are wonderful and give a welcoming effect to the town.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to stop off in Innishannon. Your attention to proper planning and historical objects is admired on many fronts which have resulted in the town being a great place to live. The road through the town is very busy and dangerous to cross. I loved the sculpture of the blacksmith at work. Congratulations to all concerned with a great effort.