

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Macroom** Ref: **183**  
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **283**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **10/06/2009**  
**21/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>283</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

I note you have a chairman, secretary, vice chairman and treasurer and reps from the various residents groups about 12 in all, and about 10 others that help out. It is good to find that residents work in their own area in the residents groups. You have good support for your activities and your main sponsor is Macroom Town Council. Your finance is coming from church gate collections. You work with the town council, County Council and Macroom district environment group, and you are in liaison with the trustees of Castle Demesne. You also co-operate with the County Nature Trust and ESB re Gearagh. It is vital to keep your community up to date with your plans and activities and you are getting the message across very well via the newsletters and the Lee Valley Magazine, The Corkman and Southern Star Newspapers. You are in close co-operation with the schools and they are encouraged to get involved in the spring clean and recycling. I agree fully that the work of the tidy towns has changed significantly over the last twenty years that your committee exists. A town of the size of Macroom has its improvements governed by developments and infrastructural work outside the control of the tidy towns committee. But you should be very much involved in future planning proposals. From reading your entry form it is clear that you have an excellent overall development approach to the competition.

### The Built Environment:

The Town Hall is an imposing stone building with defining architectural qualities. The entrance to the Castle Demesne is a dominant feature and is a reminder of bygone days. This busy town has an array of different types of business houses. I thought that the footpath coming away from the County buildings passing out Spectra is quite dangerous as it narrows down considerably. SuperValu make excellent use of space with the shop recessed back a considerable distance from the main street. I very much liked the unusual looking THE BRIERY AND GAP and it is good to see the name also as gaeilge. The Castle Hotel again makes very good use of space and is attractive from the front. I admired MacCarthaig and it is tastily presented. It is obvious that the standard of planning is high with the old Macroom making room for all the new developments.

Granville's looked smart. The courthouse has its own distinctive flavour with the fine cut-stone structure and it is good to see that it is being restored. St Colemans catholic church is visually striking with a distinctive flavour of beautiful cut stone with a wonderful clock on top. The convent alongside the church is spectacular, and it was immaculately landscaped. The church of Ireland is steadily falling into disrepair with some windows boarded up. The stonework is good and intact and the roof looked perfect, therefore, it would be nice to see it put to a different use. The grotto on the Cork road is attractively set into the stone structure.

### **Landscaping:**

Good attention is given to landscaping in Macroom. The Castle Demesne complex is very well planned with neat plantings of suitable trees, shrubs and grassed areas and I loved the rose beds at the Ceard Scoil. The landscaping around the golf club and car park is impressive. The trees planted along the town give a softening effect to the visual impact of some of the buildings. The landscaping around the County Offices is most impressive with some attractive features and I liked in particular the old water pump. I note the car park for Lidl is done in a modern fashion and also done to a high standard, but I felt it could accommodate a few shrub areas, but there are some shrubs and trees at one end. Outside Dunnes Stores there is a good arrangement of trees and shrubs which have a pleasing effect. The road leading from Dunnes and Lidl down towards Coleman Park is very well landscaped. There is some excellent landscaping out past Toyota garage. I loved the bovines sculpture. The vee out further separating the roads is tastily landscaped also. The graveyard looked spectacular and well done to all concerned. The great traditional stone walls and mature trees make for ideal unspoilt landscaping.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

I thought that the walkway through the Demesne was superb amongst all the beautiful trees. I admired the information boards. Your submission under this heading is substantial. I went into one of the small recessed areas on the bridge and admired the wonderful scenery and was delighted to see some fish in the river which tells us that this river is not polluted. The walk in past the pitch and putt pavilion is again a fantastic amenity. There is an abundance of wildlife all around the area and the people of Macroom obviously enjoy their presence in their walks in the fine amenity areas. I liked the signpost in Macroom Demesne stating PEDESTRIAL PRIORITY AREA.

### **Litter Control:**

I note in your submission that there have been two major clean ups as part of the spring clean 2009 and you got a great response to this. It is good to see the spring newsletter 2009 focussed on promoting the civic amenity site. Only occasional splashes of litter were noted in the town, but for the most part it was litter free and men were sweeping the streets. The town is very well serviced with litter bins. Some cigarette butts were noted here and there.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

I visited the recycling area which is very tastily laid out and is being used quite a bit by the people and obviously works very well. I thought that it is a bit remote for some other parts of the town and it could be difficult for people without cars to get to it. It is good to find that the green materials are transferred elsewhere for recycling.

### **Tidiness:**

The town had a fresh appearance with just a few derelict sites. There is a yellow house falling into disrepair near the bridge alongside the TV and Video centre. A few shops had the footpaths covered somewhat with their goods on display. I liked very much the finger signage in the town centre as they give a tidy appearance and is a big improvement on the older larger signs. The standard of weed control is good.

### **Residential Areas:**

The town houses are of an almost similar nature and have their own particular charm. Oakwood has a magnificent entrance with neat landscaping with well maintained houses. Mill Reef Creek has an excellent entrance and cut stone boundary wall with good houses. Castle Court again has an attractive entrance and it sports a spacious well kept green area with good houses. St Coleman's park is in good condition with those well maintained small houses. Chapel Estate has some houses finished and more under construction. Glen Park is very tastily landscaped and sports some well maintained houses. Some spectacular other houses are dispersed around the approach roads with great displays of shrubs, trees, lawns and flowers.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

All the main roads leading into the town are in good condition and the signposting was clean and distinct. The bridge over the Sullane river is in excellent condition with the nice recesses. There are grassed areas along

the sides of all the main roads that are in spectacular condition and give a distinctive flavour on coming into the town

**General Impression:**

Undoubtedly you have put a lot of effort into the preparation of your submission and having visited the town you certainly are implementing your ambitious plans. There is some natural beauty in Macroom and you are fostering this in a responsible manner. It is a great place to live and well done to all concerned.

**Second Round Adjudication:**

Macroom is a town of vibrantly coloured, substantial two story dwellings and shops displaying an agreeable sense of cohesion. The river and the splendid ten arched bridge blend with the Castle for nomination as the most striking element of your built architecture. The delightful mural on the pub wall caught the eye. The Town Square with its centre-piece, the Town Hall, was a blaze of colour, created by the co-ordinated and brightly painted shops, being further augmented by the perfusion of hanging baskets and planters. The planting to the foreground at the castle entrance gateway was imposing, as was that on Upper Masseytown Hill and elsewhere.

Streets were well swept, but there remained some examples of weeds outside the kerb stones. The intrusion of closed down shops has been handled as best as possible. The Garda station was freshly painted, whereas the nearby court house would benefit from its timber work being repainted before next year's competition. The signs depicting the winning estates in your TT competitions are attractive additions to street furnishings. The Riverside walk amenity area looked inviting. Some litter bins were full to overflowing, not always, it appeared, with just litter.