

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rochestown** Ref: **187**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **239**
Category: **B** Date(s): **16/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	239

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you very much for the filled up entry form and thanks also for the map of the area. I note you have nine members in your committee. There is good commitment in the committee to give of their spare time to do four clean up days per annum. I did not find a 3/5 year plan. Planning is very important, and it is not necessary to produce an elaborate plan. If you start by simply writing down some things you would like to see done on your area and then follow up on them. You are getting the message across well to the local people through the annual news letter, AGM, posters and church announcements. I note you are in contact with Rochestown College. I fully agree with you that your classification is difficult to categorise with all those housing estates in the area.

The Built Environment:

Rochestown church is a beautiful red bricked church with good landscaping all around and it nestles peacefully in that location. The Friary is an imposing historic building and I admired the Friary pond. The traditional pub Rochestown Inn looked attractive.

Landscaping:

The entrance to Rochestown Park Hotel is beautiful. Up near the Friary some tasteful landscaping was admired. In the adjoining rural environment there is a natural and beautiful landscaping with the great stone walls and mature trees. The village green was neatly cut. The railway platform is a picturesque area and I admired the stone and plaque.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

I note you plan to commission a landscape consultant to design a wildlife amenity at Cuthbert's marsh. The

marsh looked pretty and is well landscaped and the little river lapped along gently. Hop Island amenity walk is a really good facility with a suitable tarmac surface. You could consider the provision of notice boards here to inform people of the fauna and flora of this haven for wildlife. Some of the public seating was broken.

Litter Control:

Some litter was found in the amenity walk and perhaps a few bins could be provided here. A few other areas also had litter, especially on the road to the friary. A bin could be provided in the busy car park at Hop Island.

Waste Minimisation:

I inspected Raffeen recycling centre and this large depot is most impressive and was very busy with cars bringing their bottles etc. there. This depot is 3.5 miles out from the village and I wondered how people without their own transport manage their recyclables. I asked about this locally and a gentleman told me that the bottle bank in the village was recently removed as people were dumping there. It is positive, as you do, to highlight the importance of waste minimisation across the community.

Tidiness:

Generally speaking the area was fairly tidy. Some house building is causing untidiness, but it appears the work is being done in a fairly orderly fashion. The roundabout near the church had a lot of weeds growing. There also were some weeds growing on the side of the road going down from the Hotel to the pub.

Residential Areas:

There are lots of fine housing estates around Rochestown where the attention to planning is impressive and the estates are very well landscaped. The private houses were also impressive with lovely lawns, shrubs, trees, hedging and flowers.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All the roads are in excellent condition. The roadside fencing is excellent made up mainly of great traditional stone walls. A signpost at the cross at the friary was in very bad condition where the sign – Rochestown – was broken in half and pointing in the wrong direction.

General Impression:

It was pleasure to visit Rochestown. It is great place to live in on the suburbs of Cork. You are making a determined effort to make your location a better place to live in.