

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Courtmacsherry** Ref: **99**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **247**
Category: **B** Date(s): **26/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	247

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to the Courtmacsherry Development Association for participating in the Tidy Towns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission which did not do justice to your efforts to enhance the appearance of Courtmacsherry and to improve the quality of life for people living there. A hand drawn sketch of the town which highlights the places you regard as being most important for the Tidy Towns Competition would have been a great help to the adjudicator. Well done on your committee of 12. In what way do you engage with local business and the school teachers? The submission cries out for further information.

The Built Environment:

The colour of the buildings along the seaside act as a lovely contrast to the green wallpaper of the hills behind. The terraces, with their vibrant colours, create the sea side scene. Regrettably there are buildings that are unoccupied and in some cases deteriorating, for example the green building beside The Pier House or the fine white building across from the stables. But Pier House looks very well. Rita's has an attractive seaside front. Flemings and J O'Donovan's echo better times, now past but how appropriate to retain the business name. C Ceramics is also an attractive front. The Lifeboat Station is a fine stone building. The Church of Ireland building is attractive but the grounds need a hand. The school from 1877 which now acts as a Community Centre looks well. The Catholic Church is also admired with its painted railings and hand rails for safety. The fine buildings notwithstanding, it is the houses and the shops that give Courtmacsherry its unique identity.

Landscaping:

From the time one arrives in the village one is aware of the landscaping work that has been ongoing. All

along the seafront, as at the Lifeboat Inn, this landscaping adds interest to the surroundings. The trip along the coast is brightened by the wild roses, the fuchsia and the hydrangea. Many amenities are provided and are generally well maintained. The seafront park is a fine well maintained park with a car park, playground and soccer posts. Both the soccer posts and the playground are in need of some renewal before they deteriorate further. The same is true of the tennis courts further over. Much effort has been expended on the top of the wall. It took a patient person to plant all those begonias along the wall. The styles into the park add charm to the wall and must be a great convenience during busy days. Barrels of colour adorn the Church entrance. The solid tables and chairs seem ideal for a seaside site. Maybe the colour could be more vibrant. Take care of the yellow pump. It seems to be on its original site and evokes memories of times past as a social centre. This picture postcard seaside village is naturally landscaped by the wood of trees that act as a backdrop to its activities.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The residents of Courtmacsherry are fortunate in the fine walks that are provided. What happens after one leaves the cul de sac at the end of the beach? Where does this walk go? Is it safe to go in this direction? Courtmacsherry has an amount of potential when it comes to making progress in this section. But the progress must be directed and focused. There may be people in your community who have an informed interest in wildlife and in biodiversity who would be willing to assist you with this section of the competition.

Litter Control:

One notes that you engage with the schools regarding litter awareness. This is an important step. Having a long beach, front seaside debris has to be a problem. There is so much traffic up and down the street that littering can be a challenge. There are bins and well done for that. But there is litter. Do you take part in any anti litter challenges?

Waste Minimisation:

The Bring Bank and its surroundings are well kept. Your submission refers to bins. This section is about waste minimisation and not the collection of litter. It could benefit your committee to study the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. Such a study would stimulate new waste elimination projects for you. Remember that the emphasis in this section is not on litter control but on minimising waste in your community.

Tidiness:

The mown grass verges give definition to the roadsides, look tidy and welcoming. Despite the lovely modern estates with their manicured appearance there are certain challenges that face a tidy Courtmacsherry. Weeds are a problem in some estates and on some roads. Cables are a visual annoyance in other places. Courtmacsherry is a high maintenance project because it stretches for such a distance.

Residential Areas:

Housing is of a very high standard in Courtmacsherry. There is a mix of housing reflecting different generations of habitation. The older terraced houses create that seaside atmosphere with their fine summer colours. A good example is the terrace across the road from the Courtmacsherry welcome bed. That terrace reflects the seaside welcome of the landscaping across the road. Private gardens and lawns of houses bring colour and design to the coastal vista. The constant ravages of sea and wind play havoc with the appearance of buildings so the need for paint is constant. At times one feels that the appearance has a tired look. Harbour Court is an estate with special attraction, the steep slope being used to great effect for landscaping. Of the modern estates Cois Cuain is a fine example of regular maintenance, an estate made all the more interesting by the sweep into it after the fine entrance. Tree planting here is praiseworthy. The lamps are also most attractive. Ard na Gréine, on the other hand, needs to have its landscaping managed more regularly. Weeds on the kerbsides are a worry.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The seaside atmosphere builds all the way from Timoleague. Then the bed of colour signalling one's arrival is beautiful in concept, design and colour. It is a credit to committees of an earlier era. The houses on the top of the hill on the road from Lislevane represent an earlier time. One of the cottages is bedecked with summer colour. The road up from Ait Alainn is filled with the sounds of singing birds from the trees. Beautiful. But watch the weeds here also.

General Impression:

Courtmacsherry makes an immediate pleasant impact on the unsuspecting visitor. That impact begins as one leaves Timoleague, the long stretch of coast made accessible to walker and cyclist by the footpath and grass margin all the way to Courtmacsherry. Then the hillside housing, sheltered by the wood of trees, evoke a sense of expectation. The lines of terraced seaside multicolour fulfil that expectation, that this is a beautiful place. Your submission did not reflect the work already in place and the work that is being done.