

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Goleen** Ref: **531**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **228**
Category: **A** Date(s): **19/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	228

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to the Goleen District Community Council for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission and for your map. A hand drawn sketch of the town which highlights the places you regard as being most important for the TidyTowns Competition is a great help to the adjudicator. So this year's map was of little assistance to the adjudicator. One feels your frustration in not being able to persuade residents to form a dedicated TidyTowns Committee for Goleen. Meanwhile you keep Goleen's profile on the TidyTowns map and that is admirable. As Goleen is a developing village and facing many challenges a 3-5 year plan could be advantageous to you, or to a TidyTowns Committee, in planning your projects. If you do not have such a plan the exercise of compiling one would enable you to set immediate, medium and long term targets for yourselves, would help you decide which local bodies and agencies would assist you with your various projects and how you might get funding for the planned works. One would encourage you to add more detail to your submission in future years. Let us know in what way you benefit from your interaction with the Cork County Council and with the National Lottery. Give us more detail on your interaction with the school. Good luck in your continuing efforts to enhance Goleen for the benefit of locals and visitors.

The Built Environment:

The village centre sports a lovely array of colours. Most of the shop fronts have a traditional appearance with most attractive signage as at 'The Lobster Pot' and at 'Richies Take Away'. Pride of place must go to 'Camiers' at the corner for its freshly painted front and traditional appearance. As some of the buildings are no longer occupied their appearance diminishes the total image somewhat. The Church buildings in Goleen present contrasting fortunes. The Catholic Church and the neighbouring buildings are a credit to all involved in their maintenance. The old Church is desecrated by the advertising nailed onto the entrance pillar. This is a fine heritage building in need of repair but not beyond redemption. The Community Sports Centre is a major

highlight of a trip to Goleen. It is beautifully painted and maintained. The Garda Station suffers from the nearby dereliction. The harbour area is full of interest with little dwellings, some unoccupied, and the attractive Heron's Cove. This area is suitable for a picture postcard, especially at the little colourful cottage.

Landscaping:

The natural landscaping of Goleen sets the village off beautifully. Trees, hedges, flowers create a natural landscaping for the village. Many cultivated species of flower would not survive the harsh wind from the sea. The challenge for you is to determine where this natural landscaping can be enhanced and what planting is appropriate. The barrels of marigolds bring colour to the wide street and its wide footpath.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is good to see that plans are being prepared regarding walkway routes. Goleen has great possibilities in this section for generating information regarding the wildlife of the area, for creating access, for protecting the biodiversity of the area. There may be people in your community who have an informed interest in wildlife and who would be willing to assist you with this section of the competition.

Litter Control:

Well done on the Spring Clean of 2009. It is a pity that your submission does not give more detail on what measures you use to create awareness of anti littering schemes. Do you involve the school in your battle to keep Goleen litter free? There is some litter about but your litter measures are having a positive effect.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done on the Bring Bank centre. You could encourage the school to try to achieve Green Flag Status. The pupils would learn much about recycling, reusing, reducing and composting. They would be involved in waste minimisation projects and would bring their new found skills, their new found knowledge and their new found enthusiasm home to the generations at home.

Tidiness:

Goleen is faced with some challenges in this section. It may be possible to prioritise what 'tidiness' projects could be undertaken. For example the plethora of advertising should be examined and its value to the community evaluated. There are beautiful walls on the routes into town. Make sure that their features are not hidden by weeds. The weeds create a neglected picture, for instance at the bottom of the Church wall. The remains of the burned mattress are unfortunate. The abandoned vehicles on the way to the harbour set the tone for the general untidiness in this area. The area around the 'Mizen Tourism Cooperative Society' is in need of attention. The broken down walls are a pity. Footpaths give a tidy appearance to their surroundings where they exist. There may be an opportunity to bury the cables at some time in the future. If that opportunity occurs grasp it. Care should be taken of signposts throughout. Many need painting while others need to be washed.

Residential Areas:

Goleen is a mix of traditional housing and the more modern estates. There are lovely houses up the road by the Garda station. The Dunes is an example of a fine estate with ample, well maintained open space. On the other hand an estate of holiday homes by the Community Centre needs proper management and maintenance. Rockview has the potential to be a beautiful estate but the lack of care to the open space creates an unkempt appearance. Their coastal sites mean that many houses suffer from exposure. They need to be constantly renewed with fresh paint.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Goleen is situated in a beautiful area. No matter what approach road one takes the visual treat is a worthwhile experience. Coming from Ballydehob one is treated to the beautiful views of hill, village and sea. There is a similar experience from Barleycove. On this side there is a fine footpath from the Dunes to town. The attractive Goleen name stone provides the welcome. Then the Grotto needs a coat of paint. The bridge is another attraction on the way in to the village.

General Impression:

Goleen is a village in transition and has not yet redefined itself. While there is much construction of new housing there are many empty buildings also. These latter lead to the deteriorating appearance of a lovely main street. A TidyTowns Committee faces many challenges, not least being the maintenance of the new housing estates. But a TidyTowns Committee could not only improve the appearance of the village but enhance the living experience of all.