

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Inchigeelagh** Ref: **976**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **225**
Category: **A** Date(s): **28/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	225

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to the Inchigeelagh TidyTowns Committee for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission and for your map. The hand drawn sketch of the village which highlights the places you regard as being most important for the TidyTowns Adjudication is a great help to the adjudicator. It is a pity that you did not include a 3-5 year plan. One notes that the same people have been involved on your committee for many years. The village owes you a debt of gratitude for the work you so obviously do on behalf of Inchigeelagh. What a shame that the younger people in the village are not becoming involved. By the manner in which they present their properties these younger people fully support the ideals of TidyTowns. So make this project number one for next year's submission, that the space with 'Please indicate numbers involved on the committee' will have a number in it. At this stage you may be tired of compiling 3-5 Year Plans. Even so you might consider compiling one. The exercise of compiling such a plan would enable you to set immediate and medium term targets for yourselves, would help you decide which local bodies and agencies would assist you with your various projects. As all projects need funding you would set down in your plan how you propose to fund these various projects. Good luck in the challenges that lie ahead.

The Built Environment:

Inchigeelagh is a little village but has some fine buildings. The main street is now mainly residential but there are quite a number of business buildings. All of these buildings add to the appearance of Inchigeelagh. The colours are varied and bright. The maintenance is of a very high standard. The Church, its entrance and grounds are superb. One would love to make the same comment regarding the Church of Ireland building and environs. Herein lies a major project for your group. The most attractive and informative information board tells us that this is a unique resting place in that people, 'our loved ones', were laid to rest there

'regardless of religious convictions'. A heritage group might be interested in improving the general conditions. Well done to the Post Office on its appearance and on the railed balcony of summer colour. The village hall is carefully painted and looks well. The plate on the wall explaining the iron work is a tribute to the community for the respect they show someone whose work was so valued in the past. Even the Garda station looks fine. The GAA entrance, grounds and Clubhouse are superb. The appearance of the street benefits from the pointed wall of the field before the Church. While it may not be possible to entertain a similar venture in front of the field at the other side of the road the appearance of this boundary could be examined. But there are challenges and you are well aware of these. Good luck in your endeavours.

Landscaping:

Well done on the half barrels throughout. A difficulty with barrels is that they have to be minded as well as their contents. In all cases the barrels themselves enhanced to flowering they housed. Opportunities to add colour through planting are generally taken. The presence of green throughout acts as a contrast to the painted colours. Businesses like Creedons, O Donovans and Lee Valley use planting and landscaping to great effect.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The stream is a natural amenity needing to be exploited. It is not attractive in its present state to the wildlife you wish to cultivate. The Riverside Garden is a major project for your committee and would enhance the wildlife situation in Inchigeelagh and would also improve the appearance of the stream at the village centre.

Litter Control:

Despite your efforts there is litter. But in general places are quite litter free. One notes that you have your Spring Clean for the Procession. As long as there is a specific time then the work will be done. The emphasis in the litter section is not just on collecting and organising clean-ups. These are important but creating awareness of litter reduction is equally important. As a next step in your fight against litter make reduction your key ambition.

Waste Minimisation:

It is great that you have a Bring Bank and great that it is being used. The maintenance of these banks can be a nightmare for a committee. Your committee too is challenged by the way in which this one is being used, abused. It could benefit your committee to study the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. Such a study would stimulate new waste elimination projects for you.

Tidiness:

Inchigeelagh presents itself in a tidy fashion because of the contribution of its residents and business people. One area of the village is a major challenge to your efforts. Rusty or dirty signs create a neglected impression. There are quite a few of these about. In one case there is no information whatever on the sign any more. If the opportunity to bury cables arises, grasp it.

Residential Areas:

There are many fine houses throughout the village with a high standard of maintenance. Two vistas impressed most. From the junction at the grotto approach road towards the bridge provides a lovely picture of bright, joyful colours, neat, well looked-after front walls and delicate landscaping. Across the road the long wall is softened by the line of shrubs and all is cared for. Move on a little and the picture changes but is still one of colour and pride. The home owners are to be complimented for creating these images. The terrace of four houses add a lot to the road. Estates are well laid out. The entrance to the estate of yellow houses is most attractive, set back from the road. What is the position with the open space.? The general appearance of the small estate of white houses would improve if the gravel finish to the landscaping were altered.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Two of the approach roads to Inchigeelagh are most welcoming. The approach road from Ballingearry provides a challenge that is worth pursuing. The work that has been done on the Macroom approach road is the standard to aim at. Creating an attractive feature is one thing, keeping it maintained is another task. This area is well maintained and provides a hearty welcome to Inchigeelagh. Another beautiful approach road is

along by the GAA grounds. The residents do great work in maintaining the verges along here. The stream looks well as a result. The more verge cutting that is done the better the overall appearance.

General Impression:

Inchigeelagh Tidy Towns Committee are correct in identifying definite projects to work on and take a step by step approach to improving the appearance of the village. The co-operation of the residents in keeping their fronts painted and power washed is a key element in improving the village appearance. In many cases your committee has that support and in those cases your standard is very high.