

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ring** Ref: **690**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **244**
Category: **A** Date(s): **26/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	244

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to the Ring Tidy Towns Association for participating in the Tidy Towns Competition 2009. Thank you for your colourful submission and for your map. A hand drawn sketch of the village and its environs which highlights the places you regard as being most important for the Tidy Towns Adjudicator would be of greater assistance as the map presented was not always easy to read. The takings from your church gate collection illustrate that the community are aware of your efforts and appreciate what you are trying to achieve for Ring. It is unfortunate that you have not been in a position to employ a Fás assistant as the area to be covered is extensive. When compiling your submission ensure to keep the material relevant and concise. Your enthusiasm for the task you have undertaken sometimes leads the submission into areas that are not pertinent.

The Built Environment:

As a fishing village and a boating village the built environment of Ring changes as the fishing industry changes thus causing many buildings to become disused and fall into disrepair. Fine buildings deteriorate into ruin and what a pity. But business improves for others as the sea side position provides leisure activities. Hence the modern businesses in the village provide much colour and a sense of a lively village life. The bridge is one of your heritage constructions and is most impressive. The arch is a lovely feature. One would love to be able to read a summary history of the mill while visiting so well done on your plans for providing an information board. When one looks towards the village from the far end of the road, one is presented with the best view of Ring. As the road bends the vista changes accordingly but is at all times attractive. One must accept the old ruins with some regret but the backdrop of the trees is eternal.

Landscaping:

The ongoing work over a period of years is apparent. Using boats to create floral displays reinforces the presence of the sea and its influence in village life. The garden at the village centre is an invitation to come and sit. The seats you have introduced create a welcoming and relaxing atmosphere. Likewise in the coastal garden. This is most appropriate in such beautiful surroundings. It is obvious that much time and money is invested in bringing colour through planting to Ring. You mention the damage done to your plants by the wind. This suggests that these plants may not be suitable in these seaside surroundings where the wind influences plant life. When considering your tubs and their contents keep in mind the natural beauty that these are meant to enhance but do not ignore the wildlife flowers that are native to such a coastline as yours. Well done on taking the labour intensive route with weed control instead of indiscriminate spraying. Maybe the coastal wall needs no embellishment such is the natural beauty beyond it. One wonders if the mill is improved by a hanging basket.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your submission relates the wildlife found in the Ring area and the care that is taken of both habitats and creatures. Well done. The wildlife information board is well worthwhile. Your committee should consider undertaking an ecological survey of Ring. This would identify important features of the local wildlife and would suggest actions that could be taken to enhance habitats and raise awareness of biodiversity in the community.

Litter Control:

The year round work you carry out in trying to control dumping is paying dividends for your village. The twice weekly clean-ups are commendable. One can imagine the challenge that sea debris can create for a seaside community. Your decision not to use bins is a brave one very much in line with the 'bring it home' philosophy which is now gathering momentum. 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. Dispensing with bins is in line with this thinking. But the struggle continues.

Waste Minimisation:

You are fortunate in having such a fine recycling centre so near to you. It is proper that you use this. Remember that the emphasis in this section is not on litter control but on minimising waste in your community. What measures can be taken in a coastal fishing village to minimise waste? A basic survey of the waste collected could be of great assistance to you in this section.

Tidiness:

Because of the construction work at the Lislevane end of the street that area looks untidy. The kneeling signpost adds to the untidy image. Have it replaced by a fresh one when the dust settles. The iron posts for the fence on the wall across the road need attention also. It is a challenge to keep an area involved in fishing looking tidy and this challenge is apparent in some places. One is pleased to note that you do not use weedkiller for weed control.

Residential Areas:

There are many fine houses throughout the village and the village stock is being increased and improved. The terrace of four stand proudly proclaiming their longevity through thick and thin. The estate of yellow houses are a sign of hope for the future of the village. The appearance of the beautiful dwelling at the Cross is interfered with by the construction work at the Cross at present. Even the lilies at the gable end have to vie with the dumped barrels for attention. The appearance of this side of the village will improve so much when this construction work is completed.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Coming from Clonakilty one is welcomed at the pier by your name sign which is brightened by summer colour. A lovely start to ones visit. The fine planting continues into the village contributing to Ring's unique appearance. Coakley's approach road and the approach road down the hill are spoiled at present due to the building work.

General Impression:

These are challenging times for a TidyTowns Committee in Ring. Coakley's Cross is a cross for such a committee at present with all of the dust and dumping one associates with building. But this will pass and that

area will be greatly enhanced by the development. Providing summer colour is your way of deflecting from the amount of dereliction and ruin that exists around the village. This is a worthy plan of action and assists in enhancing the appearance of Ring. One looks forward to an information board on the history of the mill.