

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rosscarbery** Ref: **691**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **287**
Category: **B** Date(s): **24/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	46
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	15
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	287

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to Rosscarbery TidyTowns Association for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2009. Thank you for your comprehensive submission and for your map. The map deserves special mention. One feels like stealing it but that would be unfair to the patient person who did the highlighting. It should become the prototype for all TidyTowns applicants. The presentation of your Plan 2008-2011 is another work of art. The content is a record of work done and a targeted plan for the future. Well done. With such a big committee one wonders how ye get so many people to agree a programme of work. You are interacting with a wide variety of organisations and one notes from you Plan that you manage to obtain funding for various projects. One notes your frustration with the marking results and one wishes you good luck with this year's Scrooge.

The Built Environment:

One is taken by the use of local stone not only on walls but even on the modern housing throughout the village. The result is stunning, connecting the heritage buildings of another era with the housing of to-day. The walls, whether as retaining walls on the lagoon or as boundary walls or for decorative landscaping are a delight, creating a Rosscarbery uniqueness. Carberry Rangers Pitch and clubhouse are a credit to the community. The school alongside looks well despite a front wall that is not in keeping with its more heritage surroundings. This cannot be said of St Michael's. This keynote building can be seen from miles around and is evidence of how importantly people rated education in more straitened times. The respect shown to the nuns in the reverential manner of the preservation and maintenance of their cemetery illustrates the esteem in which their contribution to Rosscarbery is still felt. Was it those same nuns who sent the boys up the hill and to remove temptation from their darling convent girls? The Ardagh Male school still stands and hopefully will remain. The porto cabin to its front is a temporary blip, one hopes. Educational establishments serve Rosscarbery well with their beautiful buildings even one from 1835. The ecclesiastical buildings

complement the schools, ní nach ionadh. Then one can see the clash between the priorities of the local farmer and his farming requirements and the ambitions of the local Tidy Towns Committee. Difficult. Do not give up 'five minutes before the miracle'. In fact the stone dormer cottages help to create a theme park in that part of town. Another delight for the visitor is that the town centre is so neatly packed away up the hill. This may not be good for business as there are quite a number of buildings unoccupied. It is obvious from your submission many eyesores have been removed. The street is a delight of colour.

Landscaping:

Road widening has created opportunities for landscaping that have been grasped by Tidy Towns Committees down the years. These islands have afforded opportunities for tree planting and mown grass areas. Very impressive and neat. Corners created for traffic management have been landscaped. There are so many amenity areas by the stream or in a corner that take the breath away. Where timber fencing is used it is stained and healthy looking. A gazebo adds that little touch of 'je ne sais quoi'. Fab. A bit like the wooden bridge out the road. There are vast expanses beside the lagoon that are wild, and rightly so. But green fingers are in evidence all over. In rugby terms these are 'the hard inches'. A little spot at the base of the cliff on the approach road that leads to the top of the square sums up your mentality and endeavour. The beech hedge, the roses, all in your submission. For the adjudicator it marks out Rosscarbery as a favoured place. A special delight is the neatly railed off Gander's Acre, right there in the heart of the village. How did it escape the developers attention? Four water pumps were spotted, all proudly presented though the stuff of children's nightmares. At the Ó Donnabhán Rossa plaque hanging baskets on all premises would give a boost to the area.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You are fortunate to live in a wildlife haven. Herein lies a privilege and a challenge. Can this group of people manage the surrounding biodiversity? Are they aware of their existing habitats? Are they creating access to their natural environment for the public without endangering any species? One feels that you are doing a fine job. You are creating informed access. You are seeking outside assistance of people who can help you. One is concerned that some of the language used is general: 'There is plenty of wildlife here'. One would like more specifics. Though on the other hand wildlife boards are specific to the area and relevant.

Litter Control:

There is some litter but very little. Well done on your long battles and various schemes with the litter. Your Plan is a most detailed account of your efforts in this area. Your survey has proved to be a great help and the culprit businesses now know more of the story. All of your projects are to be commended. One area to which there was no reference made in your Plan is reduction. 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. How can the chipper reduce its packaging to allay your hassle with collection of packaging originating from there?

Waste Minimisation:

Well done on your recycling centre. And a special well done on your plea from the heart: 'This is a recycling centre, not a dump'. The rose bed and the flowering Johnsworth must also act as a deterrent to would be dumpers as the place is spotless. The Green Flag Status is a major step in the correct waste minimisation direction. The pupils learn about recycling, reusing, reducing and composting. They are involved in waste minimisation projects and bring their new found skills, their new found knowledge and their new found enthusiasm home to the generations at home. And so the waste minimisation cycle is set in motion. Your recycling efforts are taking you in the right direction. The careful use of paper is a waste minimisation exercise of merit. The water usage practices are also to be commended.

Tidiness:

While acknowledging your hard working committee, would it be cheeky to ask you to keep an eye on many of the signs about the village. A drop of domestos and a cloth would help their appearance, especially with everything else looking so well. There are some weeds in estates, especially. Sorry to mention this.

Residential Areas:

The roads around the lagoon afford great vistas not only of the heritage buildings of the village and of Celtic Ross Hotel but also of the many fine residences that sparkle the countryside. Lovely houses with colourful gardens bringing charm not only to the neighbourhood but also to village picture. The village is a mix of traditional streetscape and modern estates and terraces, all combining to create an attractive picture.

Modern dwellings, one is sure, have replaced older buildings but your historical past is not just wiped away. Well done on the plaque commemorating Ó Donnabháin Rossa's birthplace. The landscaping and maintenance of the new estates is admirable.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There are many approach roads into Rosscarbery, the main one being the N71. The approach road from Cork has a beautifully maintained appearance. From Skibbereen Rosscarbery announces itself early with that carefully manicured bed of summer colour so well nurtured by the locals. The sweep into the town is delightful in its maintenance, in its variety of presentation and in its colour. Country approach roads are more low key, in keeping with their natural setting. There are so many back streets, which are also main street, around the village. The most worrying one is the way up to the Ardagh Boys school building, though the scent of the wild roses and the call of the curlew help to deflect ones attention from the unkempt surroundings. In general residences, older, newer and refurbished create interest in every cranny. Tanyard Lane is particularly admired.

General Impression:

The amount of planning and work by your committee is evident in every twist and turn that one makes in this beautiful town. You are aware of the difficulties to further advancement yourselves. One hopes that the suggestions hinted at may be helpful. An ambitious committee with an undying commitment such as yours will never be satisfied with the marks they get!