

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Toormore** Ref: **682**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **229**
Category: **A** Date(s): **19/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	229

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to the Toormore Tidy Towns Committee for participating in the Tidy Towns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission and for your map. Your numbered hand drawn sketch of the village which highlighted the places you regard as being most important for the Tidy Towns Competition was a great help to the adjudicator. But wherever the 'Soppers Mark' is the adjudicator failed to find it. What a pity. It is a pity that you did not include a 3-5 year plan. If you do not have one, the exercise of compiling such a plan would enable you to set immediate and medium term targets for yourselves, and 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 the various projects. It would be interesting to hear what help you receive from the Goleen Community Council and from Leader. What is the nature of the contact you have with the school? Your comment on your experience in the competition is interesting. The pride in your community is evident throughout the village of Toormore.

The Built Environment:

Your submission mentions that both built environment and landscaping must be sensitive to the natural beauty that surrounds all. This is a praiseworthy approach to take to your objectives. You are blessed to possess the Church of Ireland building in such condition. It is neatly situated on the lay-by. The gate design and the walls which incorporate the natural stone out-cropping is a lovely feature of this side of the village. The entrance to the rectory further adds to the charm here. The name plate and walls are delightful. Inevitably there are empty buildings. The loss of the shop to the village must be serious. Its appearance is fine and this area looks painted and maintained. The blind on the window does not present the image you would like to present. The stone house blends well with its surroundings and the flower boxes add the colour. The restaurant and its surroundings bring colour and character to that area, as does Carraig Mhór enhance its vantage point on the hill. The existence of a wedge tomb over four thousand years old is a privilege to Toormore but also an

obligation. It is great that access to this national monument and the beauty that surrounds it is open, but there are dangers within that easy access also. It will not last another 4000 if we continue to climb on it for photo shoots. The information board is superb.

Landscaping:

As you correctly assert, much of the landscaping is natural and should not be interfered with. Your efforts at enhancement are a worthwhile human intervention. Colour throughout is beautiful. Landscaping at the junction, and at the Toormore name is attractive, but this area could be further exploited with landscaping sympathetic to the surroundings. Well done on the pump at the junction. The landscaping at Carraig Dubh and at Seascape is exceptional. The bend on the road beside Seascape is enhanced by the wall of colour.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Access to our natural environment is often hazardous so the opening up of access to old paths is laudable. Your committee should consider undertaking an ecological survey of Toormore. 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:

Litter is a rarity in Toormore. The policy of getting 'each one to look after his own patch' may not always have the desired effect but it is successful in Toormore. Are the school kids involved in litter control? As a next step in your fight against litter make reduction your key ambition

Waste Minimisation:

While it is a step in the right direction that people are using the landfill and local recycling facility, the emphasis in this section is on reduction of waste. 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 how waste is managed but on minimising waste in your community.

Tidiness:

Toormore presents a tidy image but keep an eye on unwanted growth in the wrong places. Many of the signs throughout the village need to be cleaned, painted or renewed.

Residential Areas:

The residences of Toormore express pride in the parish. Houses, gardens and roadside fronts make Toormore an attractive place to live in and visit.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The appearance of the village from the Ballydehob approach road is panoramic. The outcropping of rock on the right hand side and the old Church of Ireland building give the area an ancient feel. *Ársacht sa Ghaeilge*. The wall defining the march of the sea adds to this attractive image. One wants to see the heather in Spring. The backdrop to this artist's delight is of wooded land speckled with the odd dash of human dwelling. A delight. The wilderness feel is retained by not having the verge mown. But weeds are evident at the bridge. Similarly from Goleen the wild effect is natural. That timber fence brings definition to the boundaries and is well maintained.

General Impression:

One applauds your efforts to enhance the appearance of Toormore, to improve the natural environment of the village for the enjoyment of locals and visitors. Your committee faces challenges but were it not for your efforts, the appearance of the village would deteriorate quickly. One admires your philosophy to keep your intervention in sympathy with the splendour all about. Good luck in your future efforts.

