

# Tidy Towns Competition 2013

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ring** Ref: **690**  
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **268**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **15/06/2013**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2013</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	43	44
The Built Environment	50	30	31
Landscaping	50	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24	25
Litter Control	50	37	38
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	11	11
Tidiness	30	18	19
Residential Areas	40	27	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28	29
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>268</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Ring is very welcome to this year's Tidy Towns Competition. You made significant progress last year and it is great to see that this advance has continued over the past twelve months. Well done to all concerned. We note that the number of your committee members varies from sixteen to twenty and this is a marvelous reflection of the solid community participation this competition encourages.

You mention the accolades you have recently been awarded and how these achievements draw in extra local support. It is good to see how you engage with the various public and private organizations that can offer guidance in regard to specific projects.

Thank you for the map that was included in your application. We suggest that a larger scale map might be submitted next time as it would allow closer engagement with the various projects and sites.

### The Built Environment:

The elements of your built environment take due account of the close engagement with the sea. We note how you have about a hundred boats in the water during the summer months. There is also a strong heritage element to the buildings, especially the store/mill dating from the eighteenth century and Arundel Mill which is of medieval origin.

Arundel House is very attractive and we especially admired the slate-hanging feature that adds to its distinctive character.

Deasy's Bar was well presented and Barry's Bar is well maintained. Kitty Mac's Bar was neatly painted. The tripartite stone building facing the North Quay caught our eye. It is a fine solid structure.

### Landscaping:

Ring benefits from its marvelous seaside setting. It has a linear shape also, something that suggests how landscaping projects might follow a sequence.

We admired the new sections of your project and saw the boat planter at the old mill. However, we wondered at the appropriateness of the flowers on the quay wall - would you reconsider the flower planting on the old mill?

The brightly painted pump was seen and the seating on the middle Ring road benefits from its attractive situation. Some of the planters nearby needed renewal. The fine trees near Ring House were admired. They are a notable landmark for that locality.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Your coastal location endows you with an environmental richness and it is clear that you are engaging with this great resource. We noted the information on wildlife opposite Kitty Mac's bar. This works well.

At several points along the seafront the array of wildflowers caught our eye. We halted to admire the Yellow Iris, Sea Pink (Thrift) and many more that add a splash of colour to summer days. Of course, the local swans are a great attraction as well.

Your engagement with the local schoolchildren suggests that this is an area where youthful enthusiasm could be encouraged. One suggestion would be for an audit of the wild birds and wild flowers and bodies such as BirdWatch Ireland can offer guidance on this project. You might consider how closely the boardwalk project might be tied in with observing local wildlife.

We feel this is a category where Ring could pick up extra marks over the next few years.

### **Litter Control:**

Ring was largely litter-free on adjudication day. Your high standard deserves praise when we take into account the great volume of recreation traffic that passes through every day. Your regular clean-ups are obviously raising awareness of this aspect of the place. It is great to see how you have drawn local school children into your ranks for collecting litter. Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí.

### **Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:**

We see how you are involved in taking rubbish from the local school to the recycling centre and also how you segregate the litter that is picked up along the roadway. These initiatives are commended especially where you have drawn the schoolchildren into your projects.

What this category now seeks to do is to bring places such as Ring up to the next level in the pyramid where the emphasis is on reducing the generation of waste in the first instance. There are some straightforward ways of achieving this such as minimizing the amount of wrapping that we use every day. We remarked on how you are engaging in composting. You will have seen the waste pyramid illustrated in your application form where it progresses from Recycling on to Reuse and on to Reduction with the ultimate aim of Elimination. Guidance on this topic can be sought from Cork County Council.

### **Tidiness:**

You have taken a firm stance on tidiness and this is lauded. We saw your sign on the north wall prohibiting any dumping; it needs remedial attention now. The village sign at the top end also deserves attention; it requires cleaning. You have put good work into the project at the old mill. We invite you to reconsider the colours used there for both the seating and the boat. In our opinion, these strong bright colours compete too strongly with the heritage architecture of the mill building. We also invite you to consider removal of the invasive tree between the seat and boat on the sea side.

### **Residential Areas:**

Ring is indeed fortunate in having a fine and varied stock of houses. What has been built to date has been sensitive to the scenic location and it has made sensible use of planting and fencing. We can understand how people would be drawn to the place.

Ring House enjoys a fine setting, complemented with robust planting that adds to the amenity. Sea Haven is well presented and Shaking Tree Cottage has amusing ornaments as well a nicely maintained garden.

Beside Deasy's Bar we noted the two-storey house and the caravan, both of which require attention.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The main road serving Ring clings to the scenic coastline. This gives you a great advantage and you have made great use of this asset. A few of the local signs need attention and we are sure that these will be added to your project list. In many instances we paused to admire the roadside fencing and planting. Well done.

### **General Impression:**

Ring is a beautiful coastal village and it is becoming more aware of the varied assets that nourish the strong community spirit. This was the first visit by this adjudicator and we were most impressed and now look forward to revisiting it.

As we always recommend, the use of a 3 or 5 year plan will assist in the phasing of your projects; you may also consider how it would tie them to a time horizon and allow for tight budgeting. Good luck with your future endeavours. Guímid gach rath ar bhúr saothar.