

# Tidy Towns Competition 2013

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rosscarbery** Ref: **691**  
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **304**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **18/06/2013**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2013</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	47	47
The Built Environment	50	38	38
Landscaping	50	42	43
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	33	34
Litter Control	50	39	39
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	16	16
Tidiness	30	17	17
Residential Areas	40	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35	35
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>304</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Rosscarbery is very welcome to this year's TidyTowns Competition. You have made great progress during the past few years and we can now see that it has been sustained. Well done. Your application is full of interesting details that reflect the deep engagement with the agenda of improvement. A membership of fourteen on your guiding committee reflects well on Rosscarbery as does the total of 35 people who get involved to support you. Molaim sibh.

It is clear that you are gaining from your engagement with the local council as well as other public bodies. We commend your work with the local school children because they hopefully will later become committee members. You are to be praised for linking the TidyTowns Competition with the school's transition year agenda. Your bird's eye view map proved to be useful and revealing on the adjudication visit. It could be described as an art work. Well done.

### The Built Environment:

There was an array of public and commercial premises for us to admire on account of the fine presentation. These included Rosscarbery Pharmacy, the Post Office, Doswell Gallery and Nolan's. O'Callaghan Walsh was especially admired for the antique glass still present in the shop front, together with the window barrier. Other frontages lauded for good work were O'Briens Bar and Hubbert's Bijou. We found the shop fronts at Tanyard Lane well-presented, bright and lively on the day. We are sure you are concerned to address the empty retail premises so that they do not detract from their surroundings.

The Celtic Ross Hotel occupies a prominent position at the eastern entrance to the town. Its round tower forms a notable landmark for people passing that way. We found the grounds, including the car park and planted borders, to be well presented.

The cathedral also stands out as a landmark on this stretch of the coastline, it is to be admired and we found the entire religious buildings well cared for; St Fachtna's Church is set off by fine grounds, entered by lovely old iron gates. The Convent of Mercy occupies an elevated site, with superb views out over the lagoon.

The national school (Scoil Náisiunta Mhuire) appeared neat and well-tended, with colourful stickers on the windows.

### Landscaping:

Rosscarbery proudly displays its embrace of the seafront. The causeway section of the N71 has brought about

several added items of landscape interest. A notable by-product has been the creation of fine decorative green spaces that are now maturely planted and serving the public as a substantial amenity. In these works we could see the substantial amount of fine stone work and this now adds to the solid and substantial appearance of the structures concerned.

We came across several instances of considerate, appropriate and well-measured planting. These include the planting beds on the town entrance at the New Line Road.

The tennis courts enjoy a marvellous situation and they are well-maintained.

The new GAA pitch was well laid out when we saw it although it might benefit from supplementary shelter planting. There were pretty flower boxes on display at the Ardagh National School building.

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

You have a tremendous array of wildlife and it is clearly appreciated by the local community - 51 species of water birds is most impressive. You are engaging positively with the local school children in projects such as the lagoon survey. This is commendable as these youngsters are the future guardians of Irish nature. During our visit we observed egrets and herons beside Warren Cross and your viewing scope proved useful. Beside St Patrick's Bridge we encountered a family of swans with their seven cygnets. We were, of course, reminded of that great Irish saga of the Children of Lir.

You have done very well in this category and we saw a further advance over the past twelve months. This is, as you will know, a topic where advice and guidance can be sought from bodies such as BirdWatch Ireland.

### **Litter Control:**

This is a category that you take very seriously and the good results are there for all to see. You have, quite rightly, targeted those areas such as Serpentine Road that are potential trouble spots. It is great to see that the school children are drawn to this work.

We came across some litter on the roadside by the adventure golf site. This included old carpet that appeared to have been discarded there.

We were most impressed with the condition of the roadsides along the N71. It is clear now that Irish motorists (and the foreign ones too) are heeding the request over litter control. Well done to all concerned for giving Roscarbery such a neat and well-ordered appearance.

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

We note your several initiatives in the topic of waste recycling. These include electrical goods and glass jars. We found the recycling area well kept on adjudication day. Molaim sibh.

What this category now seeks to do is to bring places such as Roscarbery 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. One of these areas is to engage in composting in our gardens. You will have seen the waste pyramid illustrated in your application form where it progresses from Recycling to Reuse and on to Reduction with the ultimate aim of Elimination. Guidance on this topic can be sought from Cork County Council.

### **Tidiness:**

Your list of works in this category does you proud. There has been extensive and close attention to cleaning and decorating, as well as new planting. Well done. You did well in drawing in the transition-year students in the projects.

Gáirdín an Ché is open and welcoming, bright without being fussy. We note, however, that there are four separate information panels there, all competing for our attention. We would suggest this arrangement might be reviewed to co-ordinate the efforts of the interest involved. You may consider the option of a single panel to be the best outcome.

We paused to admire the good housekeeping at the GAA grounds. This site is a great asset to the community. The surface at Barrack Lane and Tanyard Lane was very uneven and you may consider whether it can receive attention.

The wall on the New Line Road was covered in wild flowers; however, they are now obstructing views over Roscarbery and down to the sea. We would suggest cutting back the Red Valerian as it is not sustainable - in time it would destabilize the wall structure. The Star Garden is very well maintained.

### **Residential Areas:**

Roscarbery is fortunate to have a substantial and fine stock of houses. They were found to be well presented. Carbery Court was well kept, with the grass newly cut before we arrived. Well done. We admired the design/layout of the stepped houses on Tanyard Lane. They are well ordered. We came across a lovely old stone house that is currently for sale.

Céim Hill has an unusual design, with its mono-pitch roof. This relates well to the fall of slope and ensures that it fits in snugly. We also admired the stone building below Céim Hill.

Reiltín was noted, with the lovely crimson mews well presented.

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

Roscarbery enjoys great connections from both the east and west by virtue of the N71. On adjudication day there was a continual flow of traffic out/in along the coast. Most of the road network is in good order.

The causeway formed across the estuary by the N71 is a spectacular feature that contributes much to the identity of the place. A bonus is the quiet inlets of the sea that now provide shelter for seabirds and the local swans, all adding to the beauty of the surroundings.

The Square is the beating heart of the town. It enjoys the beautiful backdrop provided by a curtain of trees. You are indeed fortunate to have such a natural setting. The surface of Barrack Lane remains a bit rough.

We commend you for the substantial scheme that is prepared for the site at the Warren. It appears well thought out and will extend the range of facilities at Roscarbery.

### **General Impression:**

This was our first adjudication visit to Roscarbery and we were most impressed by all we had to see. Well done. It is great to read that you have such substantial participation in your activities and that your sizeable committee is supported by a great body of volunteers. This is, we believe, a true expression of the ethos of the Tidy Towns. You have done well in regard to encouraging the school children to contribute to your projects.

It is also commendable how you have set out your projects in the 3 year plan. This is always recommended because it forms the basis where work can be phased, tied to financial resources and connected to a time horizon.

We wish you continued success over the next few years. Molaimíd sibh go léir.