

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DURRUS VILLAGE**
County : **CORK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	29	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	29	25
Tidiness	20	10	11
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	190	184

Durrus, County Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Congratulations on a good effort in spite of the difficulties which you have experienced over the past year. In your proposed 5-year Development Plan be sure to list objectives for projects to begin or be completed under a separate heading for each successive year. A few committees have produced lists of intentions without setting a specific deadline for each and this has not had the desired effect of encouraging action in the community.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The buildings of architectural interest – the two churches – are as well maintained as ever. The Garda Station was very nicely painted. The Conningbui factory is very well kept indeed in its neat grounds. The Post Office as usual cuts a fine figure in its central position, but this is not helped by the vacant building adjacent. The vacant Paddy Barry's has an even more deleterious effect as it is so prominent; unfortunately, sites of this kind immediately catch the eye and give a poor impression of the village in general. Ivo's was admired for the discretion of its design.

LANDSCAPING

The best piece of landscaping is the grounds of the Church of Ireland church where they slope towards the stream. This is an almost idyllic spot, with water, sward, ancient trees, well nurtured young planting and the charming building in the background. The lengthy new planting with its neat wooden fence in an elevated position, on the right as you come from Bantry, is also very good and should be excellent by next year – this it is not mentioned in your notes or marked on your map. The flowerbed on the Bantry Road is attractive, though a means should be found to screen (preferably with climbing plants) the concrete-block backing seen as you leave the village. Landscaping by houses on the Kilcrohane Road is attractive. The flower baskets add a wonderful feeling of brightness and seemed to have survived the very bad weather remarkably well. A few beds in less prominent areas were surprisingly weedy.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Not a great deal seems to have been done in enhancing the natural environment. Have you considered the NeighbourWood scheme? It is specially devised for community-based projects, and details will be found in your Tidy Towns pack.

LITTER CONTROL

This was much improved upon last year, but is still poor in comparison with centres of similar size.

TIDINESS

Derelict sites do detract from the overall look of the village. There was much kerbside weed in the hilltop housing areas. It would take each individual householder only a few minutes each month during the winter to ensure there was no weed growth in front of the house and a few minutes each week in spring and summer – not a difficult task. The GAA frontage is greatly improved, but there are still a lot of weeds.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

It is the older street houses and terraces which give Durrus its special character, and most of these are kept with real pride. Many new houses follow suit. It is good to see new residential buildings in the village centre rather than in some remote place which does not relate to village life. New homes under construction are promising – be sure to encourage tree and shrub planting at an early stage.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Surfaces are good on main roads but could be improved on some side roads. Repairs to stone walls were very favourably noted, though the capping of the sea wall on the Kilcrohane road needs attention in several places.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A truly charming village, blemished to a small degree, but it is confidently expected that the tenacious work and influence of the Community Council will improve matters before long.