

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **TOORMORE**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 14-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	--
The Built Environment	40	28	--
Landscaping	40	22	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	--
Litter Control	40	35	--
Tidiness	20	12	--
Residential Areas	30	21	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	--
General Impression	10	5	--
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>--</b>

## **Toormore, County Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

A hearty welcome to the District Community Council to the Tidy Towns Competition. The very name of your organisation underlines the real difficulties for adjudication in this competition because Toormore is truly a district or a community rather than a village or town, and the headings under which conventional villages and towns are judged really do not precisely apply. For example, there are no 'Residential Areas' in the accepted sense because the whole district may be said to be residential and there is not the focal point of buildings which usually comprise shops, pubs, schools, parish hall etc; there is, however, the famous and historic church. Marking will therefore be undertaken as fairly as possible with these administrative disadvantages in view and the total mark may be expected to be fairly low in the first year; increases should follow annually depending upon the work put in (or decreases where it is clear that work has not been put in). On your entry form, please provide information on activities under all the headings – writing 'Yes' does not give an indication of what you are accomplishing or where the judges should look for the various features. Thank you for your easily read map.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The most distinguished building is the unique Altar Church. Its surrounding walls and graveyard are beautifully kept. It was good to see the formal layout merging into the wilder background of bracken and hedgerow. Only one grave needed attention – painted metal rails need not necessarily be white, as white needs annual attention, and a darker colour can be just as dignified. The nearby Altar Restaurant and its surrounds and the Carraig Mor B&B with the effective use of natural rock in its garden, were attractively presented on the date of the visit. The Post Office and Shop is quite well maintained.

### **LANDSCAPING**

It is excellent that the widened road at the church leaves a crescent of green. This was well looked after at the date of adjudication; it was good to see that it was not kept too trim in the early part of the season because of the abundant wild flowers but it should be mown when these are over. The green space at Durrus junction is well kept. One way of creating a visual sense of cohesion in a village where the buildings are so strung out is to trim the verges and hedges along the main road throughout; again, it has to be stressed that this should not take place in the flowering or nesting season.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The location between mountain and sea ensures an abundance of flora and fauna. It is not known what steps you are taking to protect and encourage wild life. There is information in the Tidy Towns pack, which you will have received, as to where you can go for advice. It was encouraging to see young trees in several private properties. Have you considered the NeighbourWood scheme, which is specially devised for centres where there is a strong community base?

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was very little litter in the neighbourhood on adjudication day. Congratulations.

## **TIDINESS**

All field and house entrances and road verges should be kept weed free – generally this was the case. A caravan near the church was either abandoned or not well cared for and was unfortunately eyecatching. An unsightly corrugated-iron shed at the junction of the Durrus Road needed attention.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

If there is local authority or holiday housing planned it should be centred (rather than situated in a more isolated area) so as to help create a village feeling. Houses opposite the Altar Restaurant looked very well; the use of stone walls as boundaries – there is a fine example on the Durrus Road – is greatly to be encouraged. A house with a lovely conservatory was admired and the residence attached to the Post Office is very well presented.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

A pity that the first view of the village (at the Túr Mór sign coming from Schull) has a gravel store in the foreground; ideally this should be in an inconspicuous location. Surfaces are good, except outside the Post Office. The junction of the Durrus Road is tidily kept. Some of the signposts need cleaning.

## **OVERALL IMPRESSION**

A remarkably attractive neighbourhood with the church as splendid centrepiece. Do not be disappointed by the comparatively low level of marking. An average has been given under each heading in the first year (except in some cases where it is clearly seen to be above average) and it is up to the Community Council and individual householders and business people to work together towards increasing marks in each category in subsequent years. Every good wish for your success.