

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Boherbue** Ref: **95**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **254**
Category: **A** Date(s): **13/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	29	31
The Built Environment	50	33	33
Landscaping	50	39	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21	21
Litter Control	50	35	36
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	8	7
Tidiness	30	18	18
Residential Areas	40	29	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32	33
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	251	254

Overall Development Approach:

Céad fáilte roimh Boherbue Community Development Association go comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara don bhliain 2013. Thank you for your submission and your map. The adjudicator hoped to find a 3 Year Plan as a result of reading last year's adjudication report but alas there is none. At your next meeting get each community member to write down their three priorities that they would like to work on for Boherbue. Discuss these and use them as the basis for your action plan. Write down the most popular priorities, appoint someone to take responsibility for each project, give them a completion time and now you have an action plan. There may be a question of funding, of course. Such a plan would steer your work and give you a sense of direction over the coming years. Half the parish must be on your committee, a great start. This means you have a meitheal of workers to call on. It is noted that you have increased the number of committee meetings since last year. Good for continuity. Good too that the pupils are learning their 3 R's. Your submission conveys a strong sense of community, much admired in TidyTowns.

The Built Environment:

It may hurt you to be reminded of vacant premises throughout the village, some in prominent positions, that detract from their surroundings and are a reminder of the changes that have taken place in village life over recent years. The Garda barracks seems to be still open and its striking colour enlivens the surroundings. A highlight of the built environment is the presentation of Murphy's Pharmacy. The school complex from 1934 adds to the built stock of the village. The Educare Centre is another fine modern building enhanced greatly by the surrounding landscaping. The GAA complex can feel proud of its appearance and the clubhouse in the distance seems a fine building. You, the people of Boherbue can feel pride in the appearance of the grotto at the end of the village. Somehow the clock tower does not seem to belong in these village surroundings but it makes a positive impact on the village centre nonetheless. The Credit Union building seems to be one of the few businesses on that street which most likely was full of small businesses, its façade enriching the appearance of the street. Halla an Phiarsaigh looks a treat and its neighbouring building does its best in trying circumstances. The Scoil Chuimsitheach is adorned by its fine landscaping. The playground deserves a special mention, colourful and joyful and not a scrap of litter.

Landscaping:

The landscaping that has been carried on over a number of years enhances the appearance of the village

profoundly. Both hard and soft landscaping complement one another. The island in the village square is a delight. The crazy paving is a suitable base for tubs and pump and all. Adjacent is a lovely shrubbery which complements the island beautifully. Then across from the Educare Centre there is a beautiful planting design, the rhododendrons a backdrop to the raised beds and bring a wonderful splash of colour to the scene, the sleepers evidently recently painted. The adjudicator did come on one or two beds that will need assistance before the Gathering. Hedging is of various species but the adjudicator took special notice of two hedges of wild roses, their texture more gentle than most hedging. The raised beds and the whitewash in front of the houses at Duke O'Carroll Terrace add to the interest and the colour of that area. The planting in the SuperValu carpark softens the effect of the harsher surroundings. It was fortunate that the adjudicator stumbled on the lovely landscaping in the carpark at the cemetery, beyond the 50 limit, not on your map but surely an integral feature of Boberbue life.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The shelter constructed to protect the information panels in the raised bed at the Educare Centre is a charm in its own right and so well painted. The information on the wildlife of the area, birds and animals is a great read and praiseworthy. But in general the adjudicator is not satisfied that work in this category has progressed beyond vague plans that are mainly aspirational. Last year's report provided a blueprint as an agenda for you. So it is obvious that the members of your committee are green fingered and love getting out there and doing the work. What the birds and the bees do in Boberbue is not among your interests so there is little point in this adjudicator laying down the law and causing annoyance. In the hedge planting that has been done there is such a variety of hedging that you are doing wonders for the biodiversity of Boberbue, in spite of yourselves! Nature walks are an ideal but a long laborious journey to fruition. Could ye engage with the wildlife officer in the County Council to give ye a helping hand? As a start.

Litter Control:

The litter awareness measures you are taking are effective and working wonders for the neat appearance of Boberbue. There was one estate that disappointed but maybe the adjudicator visited on the wrong day. For the rest of the visit litter was hard to find and this is an achievement worth appreciation.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

Your submission states that you are working with the local schools. Such cooperation is mutually beneficial and praiseworthy. The adjudicator would like more information on the nature of your engagement with the schools. You also engage with local business and again the adjudicator would like more detail on the nature of your involvement together and the results of working with local business. Last year's report mentioned home composting and food waste in the home. Has any progress been made by you in these areas since last year? What of the Green Flag? The adjudicator is reducing your result by a mark as there does not seem to have been any action taken on the advice of last year's adjudicator. Good to see the recycling bank in the SuperValu carpark.

Tidiness:

The work done on the roadsides creates a neat impression throughout. This seems to be the philosophy of the TidyTowns committee in Boberbue for many years. Such tidiness and neatness does not appear overnight. Certainly unoccupied buildings are a challenge but in some cases they are maintained and maintain the standard of the surroundings. There is one business that could, maybe, tidy up its appearance on the main street/road.

Residential Areas:

The residents of Boberbue can certainly be proud of their various dwellings. So much of the village is residential that the appearance of the village depends to a large extent on the pride that dwellers take in their properties. The road to the education centre is a case in point where individual house and schemes of houses are the focus of visual attention. Age does not mean decrepit as the bungalows along this road illustrate with the appearance of both house and garden. The Dan Vaughan Terrace and the next schemes also contribute handsomely to the village appearance. But some schemes of housing are a challenge and need encouragement. Inevitably the appearance of an estate such as at the Beeches is most discouraging for an ambitious and hard working TidyTowns committee. Are you taking any action that might lead, one day, to an improvement in the situation?

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

A striking feature of the Boberbue experience is the smart appearance and presentation of the approach roads. Roadsides are neatly mown. There has been a policy of tree planting along these roads for a number of years and this is now adding to the image of the roadways. Great use is made of whitewash as in two pillars on the road from Kanturk. Solid safe footpaths beckon one to come and walk. The overall effect is to give definition to the roadsides. Add to this care the hedge growing of the residents along these roads and the totality makes for a pretty picture.

General Impression:

People who assemble in Boberbue for the Gathering celebrations in August will be delighted that they have made the trip. Nostalgia will strike many as they see the homesteads of their forebears now lying vacant. But the

overwhelming impression will be of a village and community that care one for the other. The very fact that you are planning such a gathering tells one a lot about the sense of community that is to be found in Boberbue. The Boberbue community is not confined to the confines of the map but is a worldwide story. Boberbue will gleam, come rain or shine.