

Tidy Towns Competition 2011

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Union Hall** Ref: **645**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **274**
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/06/2011**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2010	Mark Awarded 2011
Overall Development Approach	50	42	42
The Built Environment	50	39	39
Landscaping	50	32	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23	23
Litter Control	50	37	38
Waste Minimisation	20	10	11
Tidiness	30	19	19
Residential Areas	40	31	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31	31
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	271	274

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to this year's competition and thank you for the completed entry form, the well annotated map which was most useful on the day of adjudication. Thank you also for the details of your Spring Clean dates and school newsletter for April. Your committee of 12 adults supported by the children have done very fine work throughout the year. We liked your creative incentive to the children - receiving a homework pass in recognition for their work. In common with many similar endowed villages you have the difficulty of a number of unsold, indeed uncompleted houses to contend with over the coming years. We admired greatly the presentation of the 18th Century Anchor retrieved from the sea just over 10 years ago. Commercial concerns especially on the trawler docks were in general well presented and we admired the presentation of Glen Mar Shellfish Company which was particularly well presented.

The Built Environment:

The totality of the buildings in Union Hall presents a delightful vista. From the Myross Rowing Club premises and the Pier Holiday Home to the small scale Maloney's Pub and fine sign beside the Boatman's Inn, the overall favourable impression is made up of many individual factors and elements. Saint Bridget's Church was very pleasantly presented as was the nearby priest's house. In each case the surrounding grass was neatly cut. The same comments apply to the school beside them. The Post Office, a former prize winner, continues to be very neatly presented. The Myross Church of Ireland building was pleasantly presented and the gates were freshly painted.

Landscaping:

The Black Field Sports Centre and Grounds was exceptionally well presented. We admired the six half barrel planters outside the wall that gave an agreeable flash of colour in this location. The children's play area was

neat and orderly and there were pleasant areas planted with suitable colours between it and the neat car park. The flower filled boat on the causeway at Carrigeen was admired but the boat itself will need attention as a number of its boards have come apart from the stern. The Grotto opposite the Church was well presented and colourful and we admired the good planting at the north end of the causeway.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Applause for the small circular discs, drawing attention to the skills of the Peregrine Bird of Prey and also the Barn Owl. One solitary swan inhabited the lagoon. The seats overlooking the harbour are a delight but have a care of the growing trees obscuring the view from this vantage point.

Litter Control:

We welcomed the 'Keep Union Hall Litter Free' signs a necessary and worthwhile reminder. We noted the litter bin overlooking the lagoon, statically located beside the seats. Litter management generally was very apparent apart from the very occasional falling from grace.

Waste Minimisation:

An important element of this category is the encouragement of both individuals and by extension the community to reduce its dependence on increasingly costly and scarce resources of fossil power and petrol. Water conservation, closer scrutiny when purchasing food are also factors which will reduce if not eliminate the extent of items which may ultimately be discarded. Discuss with the local authority and perhaps other villages in the area the staging of an information evening to address these issues. The Clothing and Bottle Bank at Blackfields were being used and respected. It is good to learn of your segregation of litter on the weekly litter pick-ups and also of the success of your children's poster competition. The thinking up of schemes to creatively reuse plastic is a very positive element and the schools progress in the Green Flag Programme is another positive.

Tidiness:

Many elements and aspect have to be considered under this all embracing category. The voluntary sweeping of the streets is applauded as is your efforts to continue to control the weeds of the edges of roads and paths. These two factors along when successful do materially enhance the overall presentation of a centre.

Residential Areas:

Páirc Na Fána is an excellent development with extensive planting and being well maintained. The housing development at right angles to Church Street was being well developed and well planned. Individual houses have provided an excellent backdrop many with delightful gardens and extensive well tended grassed areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

We admired the plaques notable the 'Film Trail' one and the very fine village nameplates and especially the fine plaque at the southern end of the causeway. As a general comment a survey of all signs directional and speed limit would be worthwhile. Watch out for signs which have become obscured by encroaching vegetation, Ardagh Hill sign has broken brackets, Skibbereen sign is knocked askew by traffic opposite the school and some speed limit signs just require to be washed. Do not overlook their supporting poles. The speed limit sign announcing an 80kpm limit at the very narrow hill beyond the commercial harbour seems a bit superfluous!

General Impression:

Union Hall is a delightful location which is presenting itself in a splendid and increasingly successful manner. The setting of the town could not be improved upon. We applaud your efforts and thank you for your determined endeavours on behalf of your town. Your commitment is a very tangible manifestation of love of place.