

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Skibbereen** Ref: **693**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **270**
Category: **C** Date(s): **16/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	32
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	270

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the filled out entry form and thanks also for the map of the town. I must agree with last year's adjudicator who correctly stated that it is hard to allocate marks to places where work has taken place by the TidyTowns committee but is not identified on the map. I note you have a committee of 15. It could be a good idea to establish sub committees to look after different parts of the town. You could consider running a separate competition for housing estates and districts, as this concept works very well in other locations, and brings out a sense of pride of place. I note you interact well with the town council, the business association and local businesses. I read how you communicate with the local community, but, with respect, I would advise that you could send out a separate newsletter from the TidyTowns Committee to the people of the town, as it is found that this more personal approach works well. The information newsletter forwarded to the schools is a good idea, and maybe a closer working relationship could be put in place with the schools.

The Built Environment:

I note you are encouraging landscaping of new housing estates and plan to have street names in Irish. There is an array of great public buildings and shops in the town. I particularly admired the Heritage centre. The Church of Ireland is a magnificent stone building sporting immaculate trees, lawns, shrubs and flowers. The Catholic Cathedral is a magnificent structure and is maintained in immaculate condition, and well done to all for maintaining these churches in such a beautiful condition. The convent church is a majestic old stone building and it is sad to see it is being sold off. The schools are very well maintained and looked bright and cheerful with some great landscaping. Skibbereen Sports Centre is a great large facility and maintained in very good condition. Most of the business houses are maintained in great condition and brightly painted, and it could be unfair to mention some above others. The streets looked immaculate and cheerful.

Landscaping:

I did observe some splashes of cheerful landscaping that left the “footprints” of your committee in tubs around the town, notably at the 1798 memorial. There were some great trees, shrubs outside West Cork Arts Centre, in the car park across from the Cathedral, on the Baltimore road. I admired the old post box near the Arts Centre.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

I visited the Heritage centre and found there a notice board giving information on all types of animals and birds in your area which is very educational and interesting. I got to meet Terri Kearney and followed her advice and paid a visit to Lough Hyne Marine and Nature Reserve. This is a wonderful amenity and the notice board details specific information on an extraordinary diversity of fish life. It is pleasing to find out that the TidyTowns committee organise and participate in an annual litter clean up of this beautiful nature reserve. The nature reserve walkway through Knockomagh wood is a fantastic facility. I was surprised to find a notice that states “Bicycles allowed on these paths”. I think this is most unusual and wonder if the notice was wrongly altered and maybe the word “No” was painted over??

Litter Control:

Only small amounts of litter were seen, but this will happen no matter how vigilant the people / committee are. I met a lady on the street at around nine o'clock at night picking up litter and that is fantastic commitment. I inspected the bring area in the county council yard and people were visiting there to segregate their rubbish.

Waste Minimisation:

There are plenty segregation bins in the County Council yard, that were being used by residents when I called there. With the alternate week collection of the bins by Cork County Council, recyclables are well catered for.

Tidiness:

Most areas around the town were neat and tidy especially around the centre of the town. Some of the roundabouts looked neglected and could do with some upgrading with grass and shrubs. It is good to see that some old advertising signs were removed. The ongoing building of houses is leaving some areas untidy, but generally speaking the contractors are operating quite responsibly.

Residential Areas:

Most of the private houses around the town are very well maintained structures, and some immaculate residences were noted on the Baltimore road, Rosscarbery road and also on the Killarney road, and these houses were festooned with neat flowers, shrubs, lawns and trees. The housing estates are also beautifully maintained and the signage is quite good.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All the roads are in fine condition throughout the town and approach roads are very well maintained. The back areas, for the most part, were neat and tidy. The signposts were clear and distinct. There is a great stone wall on the road to Castletownsend.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Skibbereen and stroll along those lovely streets. This is a very busy town and it is therefore difficult to be on top of all items, but you are certainly making great progress.