

Tidy Towns Competition 2011

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Skibbereen** Ref: **693**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **282**
Category: **C** Date(s): **08/06/2011**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2010	Mark Awarded 2011
Overall Development Approach	50	39	41
The Built Environment	50	36	37
Landscaping	50	35	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	33	33
Litter Control	50	34	35
Waste Minimisation	20	11	11
Tidiness	30	17	17
Residential Areas	40	29	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33	34
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	275	282

Overall Development Approach:

Skibberreen is warmly welcomed to the 2011 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for the most useful colourful map and completed entry form. Your monthly meetings are an excellent idea and congratulations on the well merited civic reception by the Mayor and Town Council. We noted the major work in progress at the Cathedral which is a huge operation. We admired the many panels setting out the town's rich history at various locations. The splendidly presented roundabouts with their series of installations are a most appealing introduction to the town. The well painted, individual shops are quite a feature of the area. We admire in particular the Baby Hanna's Shop with the splendid train mural on the gable end. The Heritage Centre in its purpose built building was noted and the grounds were impeccably well presented. The Skibberreen Retirement Village was colourful.

The Built Environment:

The town is endowed with many buildings of note, civil, religious and commercial. A feature was the often delightfully colourful presentation they presented. We liked the Gaelscoil and the community playschool, both proudly featuring Green Flags with colourful exteriors. The West Cork Hotel looked well while the Court House was embellished with two purpose built supports, each featuring four hanging baskets. The Church of Ireland was immaculate and shared its splendid grounds with the Head Quarters of the LEADER Group. The Civil Defence enjoyed a smart Head Quarters while the Church Restaurant represented a present day use for this fine building. The Riverside Bakery Studio caught the eye while the Credit Union house was imposing. The Permanent TSB Company was housed in an interesting and unusual building. The Supervalu Supermarket was neat and orderly while KD's Stoves in Market Street sported a colourful shop front. The Garda Station was neat and looked well while the National School way out on the Castletownsend Road was, like St. Joseph's National School, neat and orderly.

Landscaping:

The Grotto at the junction of the Cork and Schull Road was well presented. The tree planting outside the Community Youth Centre looked well as did the Bishop Kelly statue at the library. The area by Chapel Lane in front of the Garda Station looked well while the Skibberreen AFC was a fine sports facility. The Famine Graveyard and especially the fine memorial to the sad victims of the Famine were very well presented albeit a harrowing experience to visit there.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river is a fruitful and major source of wildlife and must be a Mecca for bird watching. The Sli Na Slainte section along the river with its abundant wildlife coupled with an attractive range of wild flowers is an inspired route. The additional facility of the informative signs also contributes to the enjoyment of this Sli. Glencurragh Wood is another important and valued centre for wildlife.

Litter Control:

Your litter management is working well and it is tributes to all the local volunteers who have assuming responsibility for their own areas, together with the weekly clean up which are all important elements of your progress here. The National Spring Clean in April has been for Skibberreen as elsewhere a major springboard to desirable enhanced public awareness of the problem of litter. We were disappointed to note some litter in Rossa College on the day of adjudication.

Waste Minimisation:

This category is focussed on the need to reduce our dependence on the increasingly scarce resources of energy, power and petrol. It was pleasant to note the national school on Castletownsend Road was using solar energy to power its 'School Ahead' alert sign. Green Flags have been secured by the majority of the schools in the town and it is hoped that all will follow this good example. Discuss the staging of an information evening to address these issues with the aid of the local authorities.

Tidiness:

The Rosscarbery Road in particular was very well swept, neat and orderly on the day of adjudication. It is hoped that the burned out shop opposite the Church of Ireland entrance will receive remedial attention before next year's competition. In general streets were well presented although there were some examples of weeds outside curbs and at the base of walls. The huge difficulties generated by flooding are still with you and it is hoped that the imaginative plans by Mr. Waugh, together with other remedies can be implemented.

Residential Areas:

In a town of this significant size it is recommended that a series of inter area competitions be introduced to encourage all to become involved in the enhancement of their community. The establishment of competitions and by extension of groups within new estates helps to engender a spirit of cooperation within the estates and locations and fosters the development of problem solving capacity at sub-community level. The row of traditional houses after the Garda Station was very well presented while the new build further along was neatly painted also. The established houses on Upper Bridge Street were neatly painted. Pleasant flowerbeds were noted opposite the house in Blackthorn Place.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The traffic calming measures on the approach to the town looked well and there were very fine gardens on the Rosscarbery Road. There are a substantial number of signs, directional and others, on the main approach road. It may well be that a survey of them all would have the effect of reducing their overall impact which is somewhat over powering. The 'Fair Trade Town' sign would benefit from simply being washed. Please undertake a survey of all your street signs, both directional and speed limit/ traffic calming. Check for those simply needing washing, those needing repairs and also their visibility due to encroaching hedge or branches. Do not overlook their supporting polls.

General Impression:

Skibberreen is a famous town whose name is known worldwide. It is apparent that the fortunes of the town in this generation are in good hands as the committee and the community continue to enhance, improve and project their place to an optimum standard. To all involved in this year's competition our sincere thanks and

best wishes for your continuing success.