

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TULLOW**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17
Landscaping	40	27
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	28
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	195

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Although you have not submitted a 3/5 year plan of action for Tullow, you would appear to have a clear idea of what you would like to achieve for your town in the future. However, a strategy for developing the town's strong points and, indeed tackling problem areas, is important for next year's competition. This should be based on the constructive remarks made in this report and enlisting the help of the County Council in formulating a programme for the town. The enthusiasm is obviously there, and your established relationships with the relevant local statutory bodies will, hopefully, be of great benefit to the community as a whole.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Perhaps the best approach to this issue of wildlife/natural amenities would be to contact local environmental groups and experts who could advise you and provide you with the information you need to tackle this broad-ranging issue. From there you can then identify the wildlife habitats of your area and see what varieties of animals, birds, fish and plantlife these attract. Involve the local schoolchildren in this project - they will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the wealth of wildlife in their locality.

LANDSCAPING

The 1798 Fr. Murphy monument to the square was simply presented. The landscaping at Bellwood Drive was elegant and discreet in its granite base and filled with permanent planting. The grass was neat without being too manicured against a backdrop of a variety of trees including silver birches with discreet timber surrounds to the flower beds. The wild brambled area opposite was quite littered and weedy. St. Patrick's graveyard on the Tullow Hill road was rather forlorn and overgrown, although the delightful wild flowers were admired.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The general presentation of public and commercial buildings was good on the day. The Patrician Brothers grounds were well maintained. The Garda Station was reasonably fresh but the boundary wall was grubby, in particular the coping. The charming neo-Gothic Church of Ireland had some rusty railings on a weedy boundary wall. The Tullow Florist's is a quaint frontage, but care should be taken not to obstruct the pavement with the storage of goods on the pavement. The AIB polished black granite facade is very successful. There are some fine commercial shopfronts which should be restored to their former glory. The Tullow Fire Station was very bright and cheerful

LITTER CONTROL

The town of Tullow was virtually litter-free on Adjudication Day. The only litter to be seen was that opposite the Bellwood Drive landscaping feature.

TIDINESS

Problem areas in this respect were weed control, untidy yard areas and flyposting. There were rather a lot of weeds to the base of the kerbs on the Rathvilly road and to the far side of town. One untidy yard area beside Brophy's Agri-Centre should be screened from public view. Another had an attractive raised stone planter with an abundance of colourful planting. The area in the vicinity of Doyle's of the Green was quite weedy and had quite a few industrial buildings with bare and forlorn yard areas. Flyposting is a practice which should be discouraged, or else the posters should be removed once the event is over.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category was very high on the day. Residents of the town show great pride in their

homes. The Temple Owen housing estate was well maintained, with fresh boundaries. The charming cottages with the brick trims near the Church were admired. The gardens on the Castledermot road looked magnificent as they tumbled over their boundary walls to the roadside.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category could have been higher. The "welcome to Tullow" sign was obscured by cow parsley on the Rathvilly road, while the broken concrete fence and overgrown grass verges looked untidy. Road signage was grubby particularly opposite the Temple Owen housing estate. There was a lot of industrial development on the Carlow road, and rather a lot of weeds to the bases of boundary walls.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town of Tullow with its meandering sloped Main Street and Market Square is a very attractive, colourful and busy one. It looked well on adjudication day, however, the standard of presentation could be improved further with more co-operation within the community as a whole.