

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ENNIS**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22
Landscaping	40	30
The Built Environment	40	30
Litter Control	40	34
Tidiness	20	15
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	225

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your submission was nothing short of excellent and is deserving of the high mark gained in this section. You have captured the true spirit of Tidy Towns and applied a professional and methodical approach to progress. The amount of detail which accompanied was informative and most helpful on adjudication days. In particular the comprehensive list of people and agencies involved in contributing to the competition is most praiseworthy.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Under this new category you are benefiting from previous years work and the large selection of wildfowl along the River Fergus is very evident. Indeed you have further opportunity to promote other aspects of wildlife and of course the abundance of flower and shrub displays are already promoting the insect life. You might consider a schools promotion to further develop an interest in wildlife and perhaps erect a wildlife display board near the car park by the river.

LANDSCAPING

You have done well in this section and the numerous areas that require grass cutting demand a great deal of time and energy. Landscaping on the approach roads is very good and many commercial and public buildings have enhanced their buildings by attractive landscaping. The new park at Mill road is excellent and provides an attractive amenity on this strategic location. The treatment of the roundabouts with colourful displays of flower tubs is commendable. Such roundabouts are a good discipline for traffic but they all have a "sameness" about them - this is not confined to Ennis. Perhaps different materials could be used i.e. Liscannor flag to create a variety. The numerous trees planted will further enhance the town with the passing of time. Ennis is fortunate in having so many mature trees on almost all approach roads.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is a tremendous amount of development taking place particularly near the town centre. Such developments present the town with a great opportunity to get it right first time. In particular the amount of small retail shops is giving an improved service to the town and also improving the environment. These developments are very attractive in scale and design and many have novel features. The use of timber in the shop fronts is commendable. You should try and have the streets and housing estates identified for 1997. The street name signage in Limerick City is a good example that might be emulated. The large commercial buildings are being built in good taste. Try and get some of the older garages and car parts outlets to tone down their signage. For the most part public buildings looked well again this year. It is good to witness the strong tradition of attractive shopfronts being maintained giving valuable work to sign writers and artisans. O'Connell Street is really beautiful.

LITTER CONTROL

It is virtually impossible to keep a town the size of Ennis free from litter - and yet you have succeeded beyond all expectations. Over the two days of adjudication almost no litter could be seen, except in a few small areas. The sign of seeing litter being picked up by hand by a team of workers is as welcome as it is unusual. This is a wonderful achievement and credit is due to all concerned. Your litter bins (U.D.C.) are the best available and are excellent in design and appearance.

TIDINESS

Because of the excellent litter control, the intense building, and widespread landscaping, coupled with good signage (a few signs do need cleaning), and newly developed footpaths, the town has an air of tidiness about it. This is difficult to achieve in such a large centre. Some of the fruit shops are a bit

careless in displaying their goods but for the most part tidiness prevails. The provision of recycling banks is praiseworthy. In particular there was a welcome absence of weed growth in the gutters, even on the approach roads.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of housing in Ennis is good throughout and the many new estates are well kept. Name plates on the estates were not as obvious as suggested in your submission. The condition of residential areas is a good test of individual effort and you have scored well in this area.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Equal emphasis is now being laid on side and back areas with forefronts. This will demand greater attention to these areas and people with side and back entrances at strategic areas will need to pay extra attention. In general, side and back areas are well presented but they do not enjoy the same attention as other areas.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You have performed very well in general and the town is coping well with large visitor numbers and widescale development. Like most towns of your size you have traffic problems that have grown in recent years. Don't surrender your lovely town to excessive traffic. Do you have any pedestrianised area for shopping? The name identity of Chapel Lane and Brady's Lane is novel and quite discreet. Your efforts to protect the "narrow street" characteristic are effective and new infill developments reflect such efforts. Your challenge now is to pay greater attention to detail, raise the standard of some old developments and maintain the new development to a high standard. Long-term you will need to expose some of your lovely retail buildings by placing E.S.B. and Telecom service cables underground. However, much of these requirements are beyond the scope of any Tidy Town Committee, but you should use your influence to give effect to progress in this respect.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (03/08/96)

There was very little disposable litter to be seen on second adjudication day. As a long-term visitor, it is worth remarking in a general way on the immense improvements to be seen and the sense of enterprise and prosperity. Among the most recent improvements are the pedestrianisation of part of Parnell Street, the sensitive redevelopment of run-down areas between the main streets and the Fergus, the attractive new street lighting - which will presumably be extended as finances allow - and the very recent landscaping of a sort of wasteland to the east of the main streets. The approach to the smart new Convent Gate Hotel in the same area exemplifies this. There are still 'black spots', as pointed out, but clearly the Committee is aware of them.