

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LORRHA**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	26
The Built Environment	40	28
Litter Control	40	28
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	190

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The information, brochure and map with this years entry form was greatly appreciated by the adjudicator and it is encouraging that so much has been done since 1995. Your comments on last years report were noted, particularly with regard to your subsequent success in the North Tipperary Tidy Village Competition. Your reference to heritage towns is dealt with in the footnote below. It is again obvious this year that the Development Association is being supported in its work by the community and that the Local Authority and FAS are also co-operating. The new criteria for the competition for 1997 will require Tidy Towns Committees to produce a development plan which will guide their activities over a 3 -5 year period and which will also set out realistic objectives, targets and work to be done each year of the period. The plan should be prepared with the advice and assistance of the relevant agencies and statutory bodies. Copies of the completed plan could be circulated within the community and create a greater awareness of the Tidy Towns efforts. The new marking scheme will reflect a wider view of the efforts and planning of communities and Tidy Towns groups, with an emphasis on a planned, integrated approach.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Tidy Towns Committees are being encouraged to play a role in protecting, enhancing and increasing wildlife in their catchment area through greater nature conservation. Plans towards achieving these aims should be included in your work programme and projects which could be considered are:- nature trails, wild flower gardens, identification of wildlife habitats and river walks. Friars Lough is an excellent example of what is being suggested in this section and your efforts here should form part of your future planning - information signs and signposting of this natural resource should also be considered. The fact that many farmers in your area are interested in nature conservation and rural environmental protection is encouraging.

LANDSCAPING

The additional tree planting was noted and the good general standard of maintenance of grassed areas. The work on completing the river walk project and work in the School grounds is to be commended. Stone walls are an attractive feature throughout the village and are being well maintained. The use of flowers and planting is also to be commended as is the amenity area being developed at the rear of Pairc na Cille.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Again, the public buildings and business premises are being well maintained and nicely presented. These include the Garda Station, the Post Office, Friars Tavern, the shop and the improvements around the forge. The grotto, the nearby St. Ruadhans parish Church and its very well maintained grounds and new burial grounds; the monastic ruins of the Dominican Abbey, the river, mature trees, stone walls, gates - this area is most attractive and of significant heritage interest. Elsewhere, at the other side of the village, the Augustinian Friary, St. Ruadhans Abbey, St. Ruadhans well, the Church of Ireland and the ruin of St. Ruadhans ancient parish Church together with the stone walls - another well maintained, attractive and interesting part of the village. The area within the handball alley could be tidier - also, further out this road at Abbeyville. The area around the bridge and steps down to the river could be developed in a similar manner to the project at the other bridge.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control throughout the village is good and the additional litter bins are obviously working. The involvement of the school children on litter patrols is commendable as is the recycling facility being provided by the County Council. The

adjudication was conducted within 24 hours of your festival and, apart from some bunting pulled down,

there was no litter or rubbish to be seen.

TIDINESS

As mentioned above, with little or no litter and with good presentation of property throughout the village, the whole place was neat and tidy. Weeds have been treated along most stone walls and footpaths.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private houses throughout the village are all making a positive contribution to the Tidy Towns effort. The houses in Pairc na Cille are collectively making their contribution and the proposed landscaped area will enhance the overall appearance of this estate. The houses in the centre of the village and particularly the new house that replaces the derelict house, the houses out the Portumna road opposite the School, the very attractive house beside the Augustinian Friary, some houses further out the Abbeyville road and (although somewhat outside the village) the premises and self catering accommodation at the Coach House - all of these are deserving of mention in this section. There is obvious good support from the residential sector of the community for the efforts of the Development Association.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The main approach roads are well maintained. The wide grass verges along the Borriskane road are well trimmed and the tree planting here was noted. However, the planted beds should be restocked. The other approaches from Portumna, Birr and the Abbeyville roads - some improvements needed further out the Portumna road nearer to the village sign. The improvements below the Coach house were noted and the work proposed on the Birr road (SCE) should be undertaken as soon as possible. The County Council should repair the footpaths as requested by the Development Association.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression is good and the Development Association and the community seem to be working well together to improve the appearance of the village. The significant heritage interest in the Abbey ruins and the monastic settlements are important and obviously of great interest to visitors. The brochure which has been published makes interesting reading and hopefully will attract even greater numbers of visitors.

Footnote: In connection with the Adjudicators reference in 1995 to promoting the village as a heritage village, of course it is at present a heritage village with its important historic and monastic buildings. Unfortunately, the scheme that designated certain towns as official Heritage Towns, administered by Bord Failte, is not being extended at present. However, in case this policy changes in the future we would advise you to contact Noel Kavanagh of Bord Failte, Baggot St Bridge, Dublin 2 in this regard. The Chairman of Irish Heritage Towns is Mary Mulvey who is based at Cashel Heritage Trust.