

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NENAGH**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19
Landscaping	40	24
The Built Environment	40	25
Litter Control	40	24
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	190

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Nenagh has improved in some respects since its entry to the Competition in 1993 and 1995. The town is a progressive and successful provincial business town and that is very much reflected in the town centre with many shopfronts improved with the more traditional style replacing plastic signs and neon lights. Shops like Galvins Menswear, Field of Blooms, Quigleys Bakery, the Pantry in Friar Street, JKC in Pearse Street (a most attractive building), the Nadun food store in Connolly Street and the nearby Irish Nationwide Building Society Office are all worthy of mention in this regard. The information on the 1996 entry form suggests a small Committee working almost independently of the community but with the co-operation of the Local Authority. For 1997, the new format and marking criteria will require towns and villages entering the Competition to prepare a 3-5 year development plan. The purpose of preparing such a plan is to set out the strengths and weaknesses of each centre, to draft development programmes for each year of the plan which will direct the Tidy Towns activities enabling towns to build on the strong features and deal with the problems or difficult areas. The Local Authority and other statutory bodies and the various community groups such as Residents Associations and the business sector should be involved in preparing the plan, which in turn can be publicised locally to generate greater community awareness of what the Tidy Towns Committee are trying to achieve.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This new section in the Competition recognises that Tidy Towns Committees can have a role to play in protecting and enhancing the wildlife aspect of their local environment. A greater local awareness of wildlife habitats in the vicinity of, or within towns and villages, such as woodlands, rivers, hedgerows, grass verges on approach roads and open spaces is to be encouraged. Committees are being asked to include nature conservation measures in their development plan. Nenagh has many opportunities in this new section - the river, many open spaces in some residential areas and where trees have been planted, existing landscaped grounds of a number of public buildings and schools and hedgerows and grass verges along both major and minor approach roads - these all can be treated as part of your nature conservation plan. Look to local environmental experts and groups for advice.

LANDSCAPING

The standard of landscaping throughout the town is good. At such buildings as St. Marys Church, the Courthouse and Council Offices, the grounds of the CBS College, the new Government offices, the Gortlandroe Industrial Estate and the other Industrial Estate at Lisbunny, the grounds are well maintained and finely landscaped. The maintenance of stone walls as an urban feature is to be commended especially where both old walls are being repaired and maintained and new walls being built as is the case at the new roundabout near the Post Office. The maintenance and presentation of open spaces within most of the residential areas is generally good. Some very fine examples are the residential development on the Thurles road just at the town sign with some landscaping along the roadside at the entrance to the estate and also some of the residential areas along Gortlandroe.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Public buildings throughout the town, some previously mentioned in this report, are all well maintained - the Churches, Schools, Heritage buildings, Industrial Estates, the GAA grounds, the Hospital, Teagasc offices, Courthouse and Local Authority offices, buildings such as the most attractive new Credit Union, Teach an Leinn, Loreto House in Kenyon Street, the Hotel and shopping centre on the Dublin road, the Enterprise Centre are some others worthy of mention. The improvement in the appearance of many of the business premises and shops in the town has already been mentioned and most of the business premises on the approach roads - service stations and shops, the new Fire Station on the Limerick road, some industrial premises etc are also making a contribution towards improving the overall appearance and impression of the town. The Railway Station and the station yard, however, is one of areas where an improvement would be welcomed; some effort has been made in the Station itself but much more

could be done. The railway station can be the first view many visitors get of a town - it is as important as any of the approach roads.

LITTER CONTROL

The litter problem has not been resolved in the town centre although there seems to be a better effort being made in the outskirts of the town. There has been much work done (new shopfronts etc) in the town to improve the overall appearance and it would be unfortunate to allow litter spoil this. Nenagh is a very busy town and, if additional litter bins will not help solve the problems, then perhaps a regular street-cleaning service should be considered as in other towns. Fly-posting in the town on poles and walls should be discouraged as much as possible.

TIDINESS

Apart from the above problem, the overall impression throughout the town as a whole is reasonably good - the new development in Banba Square, the appearance of public buildings including landscaped grounds, the presentation of residential areas, the approach roads generally and the heritage precinct (Castle, Heritage Centre, Courthouse etc)

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As in 1995, the adjudicator found that individual houses and housing estates were well presented on the day and the well kept and colourful gardens in many instances were a credit to the householders involved. Houses and residential areas on the Thurles, Dublin and Borrisokane roads were to be commended as were St. Josephs Park, Melrose Estate and Yewstown Estate which were some of the areas seen. Overall there appeared to be support for the Tidy Towns effort and perhaps this would be encouraged and extended by running a separate Nenagh Tidy Towns awards scheme.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All of both the major and minor approach roads are being reasonably well maintained. Some additional grass cutting would improve the situation on, for example, the Limerick Road. Tree planting and maintenance of stone walls and grass verges have improved the main approach roads and such minor approaches as the road into the town by the Teagasc Offices - the latter with very neatly kept grass verges, stone walls, some attractive private residences and mature trees.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Nenagh is improving its position in the Competition and, as a busy provincial town with many attractions for visitors, its appearance reflects this growing prosperity and the increasing number of visitors who stop rather than drive through the town.