

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SILVERMINES**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20
Landscaping	40	31
The Built Environment	40	29
Litter Control	40	30
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	213

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the information received on the entry form, the large detailed map and the photographs. All these were helpful to the Adjudicator on the day. Silvermines is a well planned village with, as you say the splendid backdrop of the Silvermines Mountains. In this regard, are there further plans to develop the walks near the Cornish Engine House and perhaps in other areas ? The Committee appears to have involved the community in the Tidy Towns effort effectively and also has a good working relationship with the various development agencies. Much good work has been achieved to date and it was noted that there are on-going projects planned. No doubt these will form part of your 3 - 5 year plan which is a requirement of 1997 entry. The request for this simple plan or work programme is aimed at assisting Tidy Towns Committees to take stock and guide their activities in the future.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It was noted that a move towards greater nature conservation has commenced in Silvermines with the designation of two areas for wild life development. Also the many planted areas already situated around the village contribute towards this objective. The wildlife area at the stream off the Dolla road is pleasant and the area near the bridge nicely landscaped. However, unfortunately there was litter consisting of plastic bottles, crisp bags and a cigarette packet in the river on the day of adjudication. Also some of the wooden furniture here needs attention and the new sign is a little obtrusive - perhaps this is a temporary one? A little further out the Dolla road at the end of the tree planting there is another opportunity to create a nice feature at the small concrete bridge by stonefacing the bridge and tidying up the stream area. The road from the Dolla approach up to the viewing area was bordered by a natural garden with fox gloves, elder flowers, woodbine and dog rose interspersed with ferns.

The picnic viewing area was neat and tidy with litter bins provided. However, here again one of the wooden seats was broken. Half way up the road to this viewing area there is a triangular site on the right which could also be developed as a half way viewing area. In any event this site should be sprayed. It was noted that you have already researched the type of plants to use in the wildlife areas. Perhaps in conjunction with the school you could also identify what species of animals, birds and fish inhabit your catchment area as another project.

LANDSCAPING

The many areas of landscaping throughout the village are to be commended especially the two ICA gardens near the School and on the Nenagh approach road together with the paved area with tree planting, seating and display map near the Estuary Garage. At the ICA garden on the junction the seat here is rather superfluous and perhaps could be put to better use in another area in the village. The area around the Church is very attractive - would suggest that some creeping plants should be used in the square holes in the wall running around behind the Church. It was noted that planting had been under taken at the Council yard off the Dolla road to screen same. The grotto /rose garden is another good focal point in the village. The concrete entrance to the developed walks near the Cornish House should be screened with plants.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church, which dominates the village, is very well presented as is the School next door, both inside and outside its walls. The planting around the new basketball court here is to be commended. Aras Odhrain on the Limerick approach road was neat and tidy but the good wooden planter boxes outside could be more colourful. The Comet bar and the shops/telephone kiosk on the main street are neat and tidy. Most individual houses on the streets and throughout the village are well presented, with a few exceptions, and contribute to the effort being made. The Estuary Garage was neat and tidy, but perhaps one or two of the flower boxes in the village which are too plentiful in places could be situated here. The Telecom building on the Nenagh road was neat and the grass cut.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little litter in evidence on the day of adjudication except, as mentioned, at the river. Obviously your weekly litter collection is, in the main, a success. As per last years report, would again recommend that the litter bins on the trees in the main street be replaced as they are rather obtrusive and also will damage the trees in the long term.

TIDINESS

The overall appearance of the village was one of neatness and tidiness and weed control was mostly taken care of. The old rusting basketball equipment on the now unused court opposite the National School should be removed as should the rusted machinery on the developed pathway near the Cornish Engine House. The recycling container is well sited and unobtrusive behind one of the school boundary walls (a little portion of this wall next to the container needs rebuilding).

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As mentioned, most of the individual residential houses throughout the village are well presented. Also the Glengown Estate and the New Estate on the Old Road are, in the main, contributing to the overall good appearance of the village. In the case of the New Estate, the tree planting here is already maturing and enhancing the estate. The grassed area at the end of the estate which seems to go down to a wire fence should be trimmed and also the grass lawns of the houses facing this green area needed cutting. The houses and walls in this estate are white which is a colour which needs to be constantly maintained and already in some instances this needs to be done. In the case of the Glengown Estate most houses and gardens are well presented. At the top of this road there appears to be a play area for children. However, this is rather untidy and could be better maintained. The concrete path outside the Glengown Estate houses is badly in need of repair. The wooden planter boxes and grassed areas at entrance to both estates are to be commended.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Limerick approach road with its good stone walls and planted area is well presented. However, the advance village sign here needs cleaning, weeds in front of wall under pine trees should be cleared, the wall of new bungalow needs to be completed and some of the grass and hedges could be trimmed more. On the Dolla approach the flower bed around the well maintained village sign is to be commended as is the grass and tree planting which as they mature will provide a fluid line of foliage into the village. However, there is a gap in these trees which should be filled to keep the continuity. No doubt the grass at the roadside near the new bungalow on the left hand side past the small concrete bridge already mentioned, will be attended to in due course. On the link road from the Dolla approach to the Nenagh road the bungalow on the right is well presented but the adjacent briar hedge needs cutting back - also the corner flower bed needs replanting. The entrance to the left of the Council yard already mentioned needs to be tidied and sprayed. Further down this road towards the ICA shrub garden on the Nenagh road, the prospect is very pleasant with mature trees and trimmed hedges. On the other link road between the school and the picnic area, the simple wooden fencing is effective as is the tree planting on both sides of the road. It was noted that at Parc An Aoinaigh - Fairgreen - tree planting and other work has commenced. On this road the stone wall on the right coming into the village tended to be overgrown with briars. On the Nenagh approach, the planting to screen the concrete wall on the right was noted. However, at present the many little concrete tubs are not very attractive. Perhaps this will change as the plants trail down over them but if not perhaps wooden covers or painting might be considered. The other planting on this road is attractive. In the village itself on the road leading upwards from the Church there is a very untidy yard area on the right hand side with abandoned car, tractor and other items.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Silvermines is a very attractive rural village where the community pride in its appearance is obvious. However, beware of making the village too pretty - keep the developments simple but good - there are already too many small flower containers in evidence throughout the village. These, no doubt, are maintained with the best of intentions but are unnecessary and rather spoil the overall effect. Well done to the Tidy Towns Committee for all the work carried out to date and we look forward to seeing your imaginative plans for the future come into being.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (15/08/96)

A visit to Silvermines is always looked forward to, especially to see the dramatic street dominated by the church against the hills. There was a little litter in the residential area at the top of the town. In general, the green areas had been well tended to but the approach roads could have been better maintained. Some outbuildings and yards detracted from the many beautifully maintained premises. In short, greater consistency is required.