

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TEMPLEMORE**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	26
The Built Environment	40	27
Litter Control	40	22
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	189

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The provision of a detailed map with the completed application form was very much appreciated . It made the job of adjudication a little easier in that it was easy to identify relevant parts of the town which is reasonably big by Irish standards. The second most striking observation was that the Tidy Towns Committee is quite small for a town of its size but it still has managed to involve all sections of the community , commercial, youth ,sports and other social organisations. The relationship between the committee and these organisations must be extremely good judging by the response to fund-raising and sponsorship activities. The close association that also exists between the committee, UDC, and agencies like Shannon Development and FAS has certainly been beneficial in terms of practical support. The five year plan jointly commissioned by the UDC and Shannon Development is the type of framework that can achieve practical results. The Tidy Towns committee can gear their particular work programme within the parameters of this plan. A couple of sensitive issues have been highlighted in the application form especially the issue of the further development of the Town Square but I feel that there is sufficient goodwill and scope to have a compromise. Reference was made in last years report to a lack of community spirit in the town. I can't say that it was particularly noticeable by this adjudicator. Overall the committees approach to development is excellent. Long may it continue. It is also good to see the Garda Training College involved.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is good to see that the schools are being brought on board in this type of activity. This is the ideal type of project for schools to become involved in and indeed a preliminary report could be beneficial in identifying wild life habitats in the town and its environs. Templemore has a number of identifiable areas, the most notable being the Town Park, that could prove ideal for a wildlife /nature conservation project.

I would suggest that the committee seek the help of a local environmental expert who would be qualified to devise a programme that could be taken on board by the schools for instance.

LANDSCAPING

Generally the standard of landscaping both in the town, in the surrounding areas and indeed on some of the approach roads was very high. There was quite a lot of criticism directed at the overall state of the Town Park in last year's report. This year it was not quite so busy so it was more conducive to a more relaxed examination. In relation to landscaping in the Park I have to say that it was not overly impressive; there was a lack of uniformity and colour, some parts were very acceptable - others not so . The Park furniture and playground equipment were not up to standard. I would advocate that the committee make representations to the UDC to consider having a look at the present maintenance programme for the park and see how it can be improved. The shrub and flower beds at `Capt Small Bridge` and at `Park Road` were very impressive. The Garda Training College also deserves mention for its efforts. The Rathdowney Road should be considered for further planting - it is rather bland at the moment , although further in that road there is a nice blend of copper beech and rose beds.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Templemore has a large number of premises that have excellent shopfronts. Most are well maintained and quite a few have added colour by way of window boxes and hanging baskets. `Colliers Bar` , `James A Ryan Accountants` and `Sean Grey` complete with canopy, prerequisite for the old drapers shop, are just a few examples of eye-catching shopfronts. Unfortunately there are too many shopfronts that are neglected, the most glaring example being `John Maher` in the square. The Bank Of Ireland could make a better effort to upgrade the frontage of a lovely building. The Garda Training College and surrounds including the sports grounds were impeccably kept. The RC Church was in good condition except that the railings need to be painted. Unfortunately, the graveyard and general area around it were rather untidy. The Parochial House was impressive; the pump area nearby is a lovely feature with stone

flowerbeds. The Church of Ireland is a credit to the administrators responsible for its upkeep. A special word of praise to the owner of the house which dates back to 1863 and was rebuilt in 1967.

When the work is completed on the Town Hall the town will have an attractive focal point. Hopefully people can agree on what is best for the Square so as development can proceed sooner rather than later.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter is a problem which is being tackled in a positive manner by the committee. The support of the traders is welcome. Despite the best efforts of everybody concerned there were pockets of litter in certain sections of the town, most notably in the Town Park, Nenagh and Rathdowney Roads, the Square, and around the riverbank at the Bridge. As there seemed to be sufficient bins this seems to be a problem that can be put down to carelessness by the public. Constant reminding is necessary.

TIDINESS

Again this is an area that needs constant surveillance. The Rathdowney Road could be improved; there are a number of new houses being built and the sites need to be cleaned up. Also the construction of a fence on the left on the way in has created untidiness. The much maligned Town Park is in for comment once more - the galvanised shed is not very attractive is it; can it be refurbished? Derelict sites adjacent to Youngs Garage are not very appealing as one approaches the main body of the town. Good efforts have been made in the area of weed control

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The condition of town houses and residential parks was on average quite good. McDonagh Terrace, Park Road and townhouses on the Nenagh Rd were very good. Lacey Park was a little bit of a mixture of good and not so good. The householders in and around the Capt Small Bridge area and in Church Avenue also deserve mention for the way they keep their holdings.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Rathdowney Road approach was again a mixture of good and bad. While the margins were cut back the weed control was not as effective as it should be. The Garage yard with the redundant JCB is not helping the look of the road. The Dunkerrin Rd was impressive with Town Park and bridge wall, and its grass margins cut back. The Nenagh Rd approach is reasonably well presented, but the areas around caravans need to be kept tidy. The Thurles Rd approach was quite good with mature and semi mature trees lining the entrance but the kerbs need to be upgraded. The Cashel Rd seemed to be improved since last year and was acceptable without being out of the ordinary; it had still a few problematic areas.

The Railway Rd was not too impressive and this is a very important approach as it creates a first impression as you come from the Station.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The efforts of the Tidy Towns Committee of Templemore to involve all sections of the community have already been noted and praised. I feel what makes the committee even more effective is its ability to identify and highlight problematic issues and then to take action to rectify them. For a committee of six people it has been very successful. This can be seen in the way the Town has improved over a number of years. Keep up the good work.