

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	28
The Built Environment	40	27
Litter Control	40	27
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	197

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Toomevara Tidy Towns Committee are to be commended on the forward planning that they have initiated for the development of their town. The documents received with the entry form (i.e. the Toomevara Action Plan produced under the Urban and Village Renewal Sub Programme of Tipperary (North Riding) County Council and also the detailed Landscape Proposals for Toomevara prepared by Helena O Gorman (B. Agr. Sc. Landscape Horticulture)on behalf of Tipperary N.R. County Council) gave the adjudicator a very good idea of where the town is going in relation to its development over the next five years. The detailed maps accompanying these documents were also very helpful. The good working relationship you have established with Tipperary N.R. County Council is obviously beneficial and we look forward to seeing the planned projects develop over the coming years.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The picnic area on the Roscrea road and the green areas on the Nenagh approach, which will be mentioned again later, are to be commended as is the other landscaped areas around the town. The detailed proposals in regard to further landscaping and planting are also to be commended especially around the rather neglected river area. In addition to these plans there is potential for other types of nature conservation in the village. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats of your catchment area (perhaps in conjunction with the school) and see what species of animals, birds and fish these attract. Look to local environmental experts and groups for advice.

LANDSCAPING

As mentioned already, Toomevara has ambitious and imaginative plans for extensive landscaping to take place over the next five years and these are to be welcomed. In relation to the very commendable landscaping projects already in place, the adjudicator found the following: The picnic area and toilets on the Roscrea Road was neat and tidy - All picnic furniture, fencing and litter bins well maintained - Tree planting maturing nicely. This area was being used and appreciated by five cars and a Caravan during visit. On the Nenagh approach the planting and landscaping was exceptional - including the two triangular flower beds at the junction to Thurles; the Toomevara Foroige Project 1986 on the left at this junction and also the Foroige Project 92 with raised beds, pump feature and seating. However, in regard to both projects the signs relating to Foroige need to be replaced as these do not do justice to the work undertaken. Other planting throughout the town and residential areas was also noted. On the Ballymackey road some work has been done on the development of the river area but on the day of adjudication there was green slime and some litter in the water here. At the Green, work has already commenced on re-development which is to be welcomed.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The focal point of the town is the Parish Hall which will be refurbished during the lifetime of the present plan and this should give a definite lift to the town. The overall impression of the buildings throughout was reasonable but much more could be achieved with attention to detail as regards signage and, as commented on previously, with regard to business where simplicity would be more effective. In particular: the Roman Catholic Church and grounds were well presented but the extension at the rear needs to be painted; Depot past this Church on the left, very neat and tidy; School around the Corner at the Green with puce, yellow and green stripes - different but cheerful. However, the sign here needs replacing. Greyhound bar reasonable but the blank walls of buildings down from this on right hand side of Green need to be painted and also wooden door. Post Office and Garda Barracks - neat but rather drab. St Michaels GAA Park - well presented with excellent weed control outside roadside wall. Proposed landscaping here to be welcomed. Old Church of Ireland building - grass was cut on day of adjudication - additional landscaping here will be beneficial also. The Garage next to Church has made good efforts with regard to flower beds and hanging baskets - however, this building and the galvanised roof need painting. Also some metal poles and struts are very rusty here and need attention. Shops and houses on

both sides opposite this Garage are well presented and neat. Texas Garage neat and tidy with window boxes. Tipperary Inn - good but frontage rather cluttered with flags, hanging baskets, pub signs, brewing signs, window boxes and flower tubs. The gable wall of Josie Moloneys pub needs to be painted. This is also a very busy premises with flags, signs, flower tubs and sandwich board. Sean Ryans on opposite corner also has too many signs and should be encouraged to replace plastic name sign. Kinane Kitchens need to paint their street wall. Nice traditional shop front noted at Kellys. National Sc hool - neat and tidy and well presented.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control in general was very good and litter bins appeared to be adequate. However, there was some litter outside the National School, where children were playing, and in the river as mentioned. The difficulty of maintaining a high standard in this category was brought home to the Adjudicator as it was noted that the driver of a car driving down towards the green finished a packet of cigarettes and threw the pack out of the car window. Obviously, both young and old need to be re-educated as regards littering. It was noted that on the day of adjudication that two women were undertaking a litter collection with refuse bags .

TIDINESS

Mostly the town was reasonably tidy and weed control was well taken care of. However, some yards could have been better maintained.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

In general individual houses in the town and on the approach roads were well presented. However, there were a few exceptions which detracted from the overall effort. This was especially noticeable in the estate on the left hand road leading out of the town past the School (unfortunately the maps provided did not name roads). In this estate also the owners of the pre-fab at the rear of the first house should be encouraged to paint same as it is clearly seen from the road. On the right hand road leading out to town the excellent stone wall opposite the housing estate was noted. Unfortunately the landscaped area inside the 30 mph limit on this road has been occupied by a Caravan whose residents were drying their clothes on the opposite bank. The first estate of bungalows on the left leading down from this road in the main were very well kept with some lovely gardens. Green area at the top of the estate is also well maintained. In the second estate of bungalows the houses were also well maintained and instead of the green area a nicely planted herbaceous border runs behind the houses down to the Church. There was evidence that this was in the process of being weeded. Some grassed areas further down in the estate did need cutting but were still rather attractive as there were poppies growing throughout.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS.

As the town has now developed areas along most approach roads it is recommended that the advance town signs be moved further out. On the Roscrea approach the advance sign for Toilets and Picnic Area was obscured by grass as was the advance town sign. The "Slow through Toomevara" sign needs to be replaced. Weed control was very good on this road and the areas of tree planting and seating past the 30mph sign was noted. On the Nenagh approach, as mentioned, the landscaping is very good. Also the tree planting here continues for a considerable distance at both sides of the road. The bright blue entrance to a property on this road is rather out of character and perhaps the owner could be encouraged to tone this down. It is noted that some landscaping is to take place at the old Creamery on this road which was well painted and tidy on the day of adjudication with well maintained railings. Signage on the Thurles road for Dublin and Limerick needs repainting or replacing. The Ballymackey road is still a problem. Weed control is good on this road but the whole area is a little bare and colourless. The wall along by the river should be painted. The Garage/workshop and adjacent yard are rather untidy. Further out this road the hedges were trimmed but needed attention nearer the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is obviously a great community awareness and commitment to the Tidy Towns effort in Toomevara. This is a town where there is much through traffic and the approach of the community by providing facilities for such travellers is to be commended. As mentioned, we look forward to seeing the results of the additional planned improvements in the years ahead.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (15/08/96)

Toomevara has made great strides forward in recent years and the comprehensive submission along with the entry form suggests that the village will be substantially upgraded in the not too distant future. The profuse planting and neat grass at the Silvermines junction creates a wonderful introduction to the village. On the other hand the Ballymackey Road is lagging very far behind - the stream side here has great potential; indeed this adjudicator would prefer to see greater emphasis on the maintenance of natural elements such as the stream than the development of flower beds. The Roscrea Road looked better this time. Litter was not a problem despite some papers scattered near the estate. There are still quite a few inappropriate projecting signs.