

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASHEL**
County : **TIPPERARY SOUTH**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	22	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	26	24
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	15	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	170	167

Cashel, County Tipperary

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the completed questionnaire and also for the map of your large centre. It helped to identify the various locations on the day of adjudication. Cashel is a substantial Community and it is difficult to achieve material improvement without the involvement or at least the co-operation of the substantial majority of the Community. The availability of a worked out 3 to 5 year Tidy Towns development programme, which the community at large can identify with, is a potent weapon in securing the co-operation and involvement of a wide section. The Tidy Towns Committee are accordingly urged to examine this aspect over the next number of months. It is suggested that the programme of works should identify a range of possible projects and the Lead Agency who will assume responsibility for their implementation. In this way you can spread the load as it is always necessary to work within your resources and capabilities.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Cashel is endowed with a great range of significant historic structures very often in strategic visual location. Pride of place of course goes to the Rock of Cashel itself which is very well presented. The GPA Bolton Library and Cathedral grounds were similarly displayed. The Cashel Folk Village, the town hall area and Dominics Abbey were neat and orderly. The delightful Bothan Scoir is a gem. The buildings which comprise Hogan Square could with advantage be repainted or better presented. The Court house already looks well. The buildings on Main Street notably the two banks, Baileys restaurant and Dowlings pub were all very well presented. It is a pity to note that the Dean Kinane fountain is not operational. It would make a fine focal point at this end of the street. Cashel Community school and Naomh Eoin Baiste national school all looked very well and are being well presented. Smaller traditional buildings, Michael Burke Newsagent, Top shop vegetables and Rosters also caught the eye. The presentation of large commercial and industrial buildings varied with Ranbaxy factory achieving a very high standard. The two derelict houses on Dundrum road were noted and it is to be hoped that some action can be taken in respect of them. Throughout the town there are a number of examples of fine robust stone walls, for example on the Tipperary road approach, which are themselves of visual significance.

LANDSCAPING

The town has a great number of small incidental grassed areas most of which were very well presented. A number featured tree planting, shrubs or flowers which give a sense of colour and movement and which is to be applauded. Of particular merit are the fine floral displays on upper Friary street, the entrance to Larkspur sports grounds, St Patricks Hospital which was a delight and the grassed area in front of Michael Doheay Memorial Library. Work on the town centre car park area is very well advanced and

this area is looking very well. A reminder to replace the male/female signs on their respective toilets. The display of flags adjacent to the Town Hall is all too rare a practice in Irish towns and is a delight. It is disappointing to record the current state of the fine trees display/arboretum opposite the national school, it looked drab and sad and offers such a fine potential that we hope it will be adopted by an appropriate body of enthusiasts to ensure it fulfils its original purpose.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Mention has been made of the numerous grassed areas throughout the town and these represent, collectively, a substantial resource in the encouragement of wildlife and birdlife. The planting of berry bearing shrubs, nesting boxes and feeding tables will do much to increase their suitability as wildlife habitats. For example the communal grassed areas of MacDonagh Court is ideal for this purpose. The devising of a suitable, phased programme of works, perhaps talking it through with a local wildlife enthusiast would be very worthwhile.

LITTER CONTROL

Despite the size and busyness of Cashel, litter management is of an acceptable standard and an appropriate number of litter bins were to be seen throughout the centre. A proportion require repainting or other refurbishment and a programme to this effect could form part of the 5 year development plan.

TIDINESS

Cashel is a busy centre and different sections of it achieve a different level of success under this category. Too many signs appear to be vandalised, turned, damaged or simply worn out. This comment applies to both directional and other signs. Individual commercial premises achieved a very high standard, notably Cashel Motor works (Citreon) and of course Bru Boru which was splendidly presented. In other places where this level of neatness is not feasible for example Construction Machinery Specialists, appropriate screening is recommended. The removal of spoil from sides of roads and street and especially a vigilant approach to the growth of grass and weeds at the base of walls and between pavement and roads is recommended. The storage of building material, very often for a lengthy period in front of houses and shops ought to be discouraged. Very fine work has been done on the streets generally to ensure they project a pleasant air of neatness occasioned by frequent sweeping.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Cashel features a number of splendid private houses notably on the Tipperary road and throughout the various streets. The Abbeyside houses were well presented with good individual gardens. The new, small scale houses off Upper Friary street are a delight. The presentation of MacDonagh Court, especially some individual gardens, are a delight.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The advance signage on the Dublin road is of a very high order,

however, there is a growing tendency for over kill in this area occasioned by the extent of commercial advertising hoarding which are proliferating. But on a number of roads quite an amount of weed growth has taken place at the base of walls and, in some cases, between kerb stones and the road proper. The road surface notably between the Rock of Cashel and Bru Boru and also on Deer Park Road requires attention. The roads generally were well swept and gave a positive impression. The extent of large floral displays on the approach roads is applauded and we note work in progress on a similar amenity programme on Dundrum road.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Cashel is a major tourist destination which is not yet presenting itself sufficiently as a delightful town to visit. The further use of floral displays, hanging baskets, window boxes especially in the main streets is to be encouraged. It seems appropriate to comment that the Civic authorities have done more than their share in respect of the achievements to date and that there is now a need for a matching response and involvement by the private and commercial sector of the town, if optimum success is to be achieved in the years ahead.