

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **GOLDEN**  
County : **TIPPERARY SOUTH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-97

|                                | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1997 | Mark Awarded 1996 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50           | 26                | 25                |
| The Built Environment          | 40           | 25                | 24                |
| Landscaping                    | 40           | 30                | 28                |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30           | 18                | 18                |
| Litter Control                 | 40           | 25                | 24                |
| Tidiness                       | 20           | 12                | 12                |
| Residential Areas              | 30           | 17                | 17                |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 40           | 27                | 24                |
| General Impression             | 10           | 6                 | 6                 |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>300</b>   | <b>186</b>        | <b>178</b>        |

## **Golden, County Tipperary**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the detailed questionnaire returned together with the useful map. Golden is extremely well endowed with natural amenities and a built environment which enables it to aspire to a very high placing in the Tidy Towns competition. It is worthwhile devising a 3 to 5 year programme in association with your advisors on the County Council. This programme when launched and adopted by the Local Community will increase your capacity to secure co-operation and increased community involvement thus improving still further your showing in this competition.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

A feature of Golden is the very fine stone walls on most approach roads. Those on the Cahir road, Dundrum road and Tipperary road are particularly well presented and a delight to view. The Dundrum road because it opens the view of the river, bridges, castle and amenity area is of particular significance and a delightful job has been done. The bridges and the castle are significant focal points not yet displayed to their optimum. It was disappointing to see that the monument has been abused by graffiti while the wording on the plaques is very obscured and needs to be repainted. The same comment applies to the Patrick Lynch memorial in the leisure grounds. A pleasing cameo is the small old house on the Tipperary road an important part of your built heritage. The use of the family crest on "Eamon Ryan Family Butcher" caught the eye as did the well presented Golden Library. In general shops and commercial premises were well presented with, in many cases, good displays of window boxes. For best effect it is better to plant these more fully as a draping effect is the ideal to which you should aspire. It is unfortunate to have to refer to the manner in which the Garda Station has been presented. This is inappropriate and unfair to the efforts of the rest of the Community.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The completion of the landscape project is a major advance and compliments are extended to all involved. Work in progress has now commenced behind the castle on the other section of the island. The incidental grassed areas within the housing estates and on the approach roads are presented to a very high standard. Compliments to all who have produced the delightful low level flower beds and wall clinging shrubs at the GAA grounds. These are very pleasant and, as they mature, will be a major positive element on the approach road to Golden. The small floral displays/grassed areas opposite the school were extremely good and may not need the inclusion of the white painted tyres for best effect. The raised triangle flower bed on the Cahir road is a delight and the provision of the bird table helpful. Please ensure the Cahir sign (10 miles) is repainted. You are alerted to the degree of unravelling which is taking place at the top of the small wall. The amenity Park and the river itself are very strong positive attributes which have been well presented.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The swan colony on the edge of the island are a delight and give very tangible evidence of the areas suitability as a wildlife habitat. The incidental grassed area within the town are also suitable habitats which would be enhanced still further by a policy of planting suitable native, berry growing shrubs. This is a particularly suitable activity for the residential areas where the level of traffic is usually very limited. The extended river bank is also a natural area for this form of development. In the longer term the provision of explanatory display boards might be considered, especially in the amenity park area.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter management throughout the community was of a high order. Limited amounts of litter were noted on the main street and in some sections of the residential estates. Litter bins were suitably sited at the GAA grounds although some, notably in the school area could be improved.

## **TIDINESS**

Golden generally was very tidy and well presented. The screening of the riverside by the Co-Operative was a very positive development which is applauded. There is a tendency for weeds to be allowed to remain between front facing walls and pavement and between the pavements and the road proper. This was quite noticeable in the housing estate off the Cashel road. The Lynch memorial in the riverside amenity area needs to be re-lettered and the abandoned pump, lying on the ground behind it should be more appropriately stored, until arrangements can be made for its re-erection.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Housing stock generally within the centre was very well presented. The housing estates off the Cashel approach roads featured a number of good quality individual gardens, pleasant planting and communal grassed areas. The housing estate off the Cahir road, overlooking the river was reasonably well presented and enjoys a delightful aspect, overlooking the river. There were a number of good individual garden displays. The provision of nameplates for the estates would be a welcome addition.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The approach roads to Golden are marked by superb stone walls and these have been presented in a delightful manner. Work continues to progress in some cases. The wall on the Athassel Abbey approach has been completed. We have commented that the Dundrum road is particularly well presented following a very fine job done on the wall, offering splendid views of Golden, the grass verge being suitably but not excessively cut and trimmed. The display of roses on the left hand fork of the Cahir road approach was exceptionally colourful. The creeper on the wall of the Bridge House Lounge Bar softened this approach satisfactorily. The Tipperary approach again featuring a tall robust wall fronted by suitable tree planting and well tended grassed

areas, punctuated by floral displays, was particularly striking. Weeds on the Cahir road and the Tipperary road should be addressed. The signage on most of the roads was neat and well painted and the fishing information sign just beyond the bridge was particularly noted.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Golden is a delightful centre and clearly a great deal of good and useful activity is currently being undertaken. Please endeavour to affect the improvements required at the monument and castle and continue your excellent work, the fruits of which were very evident during this years adjudication.