

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TULLOW**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	211	204

Tullow, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Tullow is welcome to the 1998 Tidy Towns competition. Well done on the great amount of progress you have made this year. Thank you for the work plan, map and other enclosures which you sent in with your application. These documents were most helpful to the adjudicator. Your commitment and ambitious plans are very much to be commended as too are the involvement with statutory bodies and groups and organisations involved with Tullow. It is quite possible with this rate of progress that Tullow is amongst the top marked entries in the Competition in the not too distant future. Congratulations on your commitment but do next year take care to make sure that weed growth is eliminated from roadsides and verges. This is the only particularly noticeably weakness in your presentation this year, well done!

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The overall impression this year is very good, some of the buildings were really quite outstanding in their overall presentation. Some business premises could still benefit from some further attention. There are some shops which have too many posters in the window and some also are displaying a lot of goods on the streetside. This can detract from the overall impression of a group of buildings or an individual building. The community school looked really well and obviously weed growth was eliminated from this building. It is unfortunate that this was not the case with some of the other buildings such as the Court House, where the carpark was quite weedy. There is scope for improvement in the presentation of some of the industrial premises in and on the edge of the town. The planting schemes of some of the latter have made a significant contribution to improving the townscape. Well done on the improvements that you have achieved this year.

LANDSCAPING

Congratulations on the outstanding achievement of your ambitious plans over the past year regarding the project at Pairc Muhiure. This was quite original and was most interesting to visit. It was unfortunate, however, that the verges were quite weedy and some sand had not been cleared away from this project at the time of adjudication. The town will enjoy this project and it is a pleasure to visit. The various landscaping schemes all around the town, such as in front of the Fire Station, or at the Hillsbrooks Estate are impressive and the efforts of all involved are to be commended in this regard. Keep up the good work.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your progress under this heading is also very much to be

commended, especially in the way that it is integrated into the project at Pairc Muhiire. Community involvement and commitment is essential and the river banks will be a very valuable asset in terms of natural and wildlife amenity. Good luck with your future work under this heading.

LITTER CONTROL

The litter situation in Tullow was very good on the day of adjudication. Obviously your efforts to create good awareness and care on the part of the community is paying off. Keep up the good work in trying to achieve a litter free Tullow.

TIDINESS

The remarks mentioned in last years report still apply to a large extent this year. There is a serious problem in the lack of weed control in kerb side and roadside edges. At the Hillsbrook Estate for example, in front of a beautifully planted flowerbed, there was a serious problem of kerbside weeds which had not been removed. As stated elsewhere in this report, it is unfortunate if there are a lot of goods or other items displayed outside shop premises. These can create an impression of untidiness in a town as too can a lot of posterings on the insides of shop windows. Fortunately, this problem only applies to a few stores in the town. It is recommended that next year the problem of the road and kerbside untidiness be really focused on as this is the area that could hold back the progress that Tullow is making in the competition. Good luck with this work.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The presentation of many of the residential areas was very high this year and the efforts of the individuals and local groups involved is to be highly commended. There are some nice flower displays throughout the town. One in particular worth mentioning is that of Courtlawn's. The problem of kerbside weeds also appears in some of the estates but this has been mentioned elsewhere in this report. Some individuals entrances, boundaries and railings need attention.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The presentation was quite good of most of the approach roads, again in this area the problem of weed growth along roads was evident. Some of the footpaths are still in need of replacement or repair. Some roadsigns are in need of refurbishment. It is considered that the entrances to the town could feature Failte signs. One was seen on one of the approach roads but more could be achieved in this regard. On looking through some of the documentation, it seems that some consideration has been given to this possibility by your committee. The presentation overall is good.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The impression of Tullow is very positive and your entry documents show a serious level of commitment due to your ambitious plans and the amount that you have achieved over the past year. It is most encouraging to see this level of commitment and also to see the amount of work undertaken and the efforts to involve all the community in different organisations. If you can maintain this motivation, your results will continue to improve very significantly over the years. Congratulations on your presentation this year and for the improvement in your marks.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (13/08/98)

Such a considerable rise in marking is unusual at this level of the competition, and it is clear that an immense amount of work has been put in by the committee and by the community in general. There was some disposable litter on second adjudication day, and a considerable amount of weed growth in a number of places. Derelict sites hardly need to be pointed out, road surfaces are generally poor, and there are still a number of obtrusive mass-produced signs. These matters apart, the achievement has been very high indeed. The amount of imaginative conservationist and heritage work being undertaken is much admired.