

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ENNIS**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	43
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	34	33
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	240	232

Ennis, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The comprehensive submission, including the powerpoint presentation represents the first ever for this adjudicator. The date and illustrations contained in each appendix reflects a near full-time involvement from your committee. Your ability to liaise with, and involve in such a meaningful way a range of relevant contributing agencies is to say the least commendable. In particular, your vision for improvement and sustained maintenance over a long number of years is seldom matched in Tidy Towns Committees around the country. Your involvement with the residents, in particular the local competition which you organise, and which permeates through so many sections of the community is to your credit. You have had great success in winning a silver medal in the Entente Florale International Competition, which will now act as a further impetus towards achieving higher standards throughout. Your submission of colour prints allied to the text is of high quality and gives the adjudicator an opportunity in advance of visiting the town, an appreciation of what to expect.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The intensive developments of inner Ennis are now tailing off, except for the very large building at the mill area. You have done well in finishing to a high standard and many of these new buildings have richly landscaped environs. A walk through your many narrow streets, especially the Hallorans and Curtains lane is a walk back into the last century. The plethora of freshly painted shop fronts, retaining traditional features is one of your strong points. The Clare Mart, is one of the best presented in the region, with a good traffic discipline. Also the railway station has played its part in good presentation. The boundary wall outside Gerry Bredins Hardware needs painting, but there is a good display of tubs at this junction. Clare Hostel, on this strategic location is attractive, but further down there is an untidy hardware business. Galvins Bros. yard is untidy and Kelly Coals double door needs painting urgently. The following shops were exceptional:- Siopa Leabhar na hInse, An Goile Mór, at the corner, Seoidin, James Brohan, with its rich embellishment of goods displayed on the footpath, Brogans, J. Kearney, The Belleek Shop, churches, schools, St. Mary's Hospital, Garages and Industrial estates were all of a high standard in presentation.

LANDSCAPING

You have worked hard in this section, and through the town and the approach roads there is strong evidence of the professionals hand. The great amount of flower gardens at junctions and roundabouts on the approach roads, especially the Galway approach, the virtual hundreds of window boxes, hanging baskets and tubs all combine to create a sea of colour. The shrubbery at the entrance to Assec is one of the few previously developed

projects in need of attention. The river bridge displays reflect great commitment at the various locations. In fairness the individual effort is matching the community efforts and the hotels in particular have gone to great expense to project an image of colour. The landscaping in the various estates, especially at the entrances give an immediate sense of caring.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have made good use of the river area, where a good deal of wildlife is in evidence. Your efforts with listing and highlighting the wildlife of the area through illustrated display boards is praiseworthy. Once again the mallard and swans were strong in evidence at the river bank. The large field between the bridge and the new building near the mill is now one of the few remaining open spaces in the town. Its natural setting complements the river bank and the vista from the bridge at Bank Place.

LITTER CONTROL

The challenge to keep a town the size of Ennis free from litter is well recognised. In general, litter control throughout the town and in particular, the core shopping areas is excellent. A small litter trap was observed in the Abbey Car Park behind O'Connells Electronic shop at the rear of the small green E.S.B. sub-station. Bank place had a small amount of litter in evidence, and some litter had been discarded at the entrance to one of the hosing estates marked C on a boulder. However, your marks in this section will once again reach the level of 1996 and you are to be complimented on the litter campaign which you organised with the schools. This year the approach roads were free from litter and the streets were well swept and well defined for traffic, etc.

TIDINESS

The corrugated roof of the Civil Defence building at the rear of the Courthouse is quite visible from far away and would need to be tackled for next year. The park around the de Valera monument was well cared for and the courthouse building itself was well presented. The post and rail fencing at the swimming pool has reached the end of its days and needs replacing - but with a different type fence - perhaps a beech hedge could be planted here. The large open space (probably earmarked for development) beside the roundabout near St. Flannan's College will need improved presentation at this important junction. The rusty shed at Ennis Wind Screen Service needs attention on this busy road. The building beside the Youth Service Centre is very poor in presentation.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The local competition is certainly having a beneficial effect on the standard of residential areas. Your ability to give equal emphasis to the old housing estates and terraces and to the new ones is commendable. Cusack Road has some excellent displays of

houses and richly landscaped gardens. Streets Terrace is a good example of uniformity and the different colours add to its attraction. Also, the planners have sensibly ensured that there is no "rank breaking" with additions of dormer windows to this important and well presented terrace. Ennis, like most large towns has an abundance of ribbon development stretching back to the nineteen sixties. However, it must be said that these houses are well presented and have blended in with the town over the years. Identity signs in the estates are helpful to the adjudicator. It is noticed that St. Flannan's College is getting an extension - not a flat roof we hope!

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The footpath from the Golf Course needs attention to integrate it more fully with the town. Surfacing throughout the town and the approach roads is excellent, with good clear traffic markings. Some hardshoulder areas need attention. The inner development of recent years has exposed many side and rear entrances, which now become part of the norm for adjudication. The development of the various lanes with discreet name identity is praiseworthy. Signage is very good throughout and the signage survey carried out by the three female members of the project is splendid. You now need to ensure its recommendations are implemented. The new blue identity signs are attractive and well erected. If replacing, do give equal text size recognition to Irish and English. There is a small amount of commercial premises still adhering to unattractive plastic signs and these are now very much out of favour. You have moved to deter traders from obstructing the smooth pedestrian traffic flow by placing sandwich boards on the footpaths. The sculpture trail and the developments at the mill area are superb.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ennis looked well again this year over the adjudication period.. The continuing development will further add to its vibrancy and the pressure that such commercial development will bring places greater strain on your committee. However, you have done well and your widespread involvement with other agencies is proving beneficial. Keep up the good work.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/08/98)

Ennis town was excellent in its presentation during second adjudication also. There was a light scattering of litter throughout the town centre. This was not a serious problem but one which would need to be watched carefully; of course you already do so no doubt it won't be allowed to develop into a serious problem. Most of the litter consisted of Take – Away litter and ice pop wrappers. The great majority of buildings are presented to the highest standard. One or two, of course are in need of attention, but of these you are well aware. It was surprising to note however the flaky, painted Dunnes Stores fascia over the entrance to the town centre shopping development. Landscaped areas, flower

displays, street furniture, bilingual streetsigns all look exceptionally well together with sculpture pieces. It is good to note the number of areas that now no longer have unsightly wirescape. Well done on an excellent presentation and indeed on your excellent submission.