

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **TULLA**  
 County : **CLARE**  
 Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	--
The Built Environment	40	27	--
Landscaping	40	24	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	--
Litter Control	40	24	--
Tidiness	20	14	--
Residential Areas	30	20	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	--
General Impression	10	6	--
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>--</b>

## **Tulla, County Clare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Welcome back to the Tidy Towns Competition and best wishes in your future endeavours. We note that this is the first year of the Tulla Tidy Towns Committee which is a Sub-Committee of the Tulla Community Development group. Although you have not yet formulated your own three to five year plan it is advantageous that you are working on the second year of a plan drawn up by the Community Development Group. Next year we look forward to receiving a simple plan - 3 to 4 pages long setting out your targets and objectives, putting action items opposite these and also a time scale for carrying out the work. When sending in your entry next year please also make sure to include a map as this is very helpful to the Adjudicator. It is important to work on a year - round basis and not leave it until May/June to commence work. Also, the comments made by the Adjudicator should be noted and acted upon. The Committee appears to be starting off on the right foot by liaising with the Clare County Council, FAS and Shannon Development. However, the most important people to get involved are the community as a whole as it is essential that they are committed to assisting you in your aspirations. In this regard the idea of schoolchildren being involved in an "adopt an area scheme" is very commendable. In regard to fund-raising you would appear to have some support from the business community in the area which naturally is also essential as without funds it is difficult to fulfil your programme of projects. Again, the community as a whole must be involved here.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Tulla is a good representative of a typical rural Irish town and is set in an elevated position in scenic surroundings. The town has retained many of its traditional shopfronts and there is good use of colour to liven up the streetscapes. The stone Market House building which is now the Library is a good focal point in the town. We would suggest that an appropriate unit be provided, outside this premises, to hold the notices and posters that are at present stuck to the front windows. This unit could also fulfil another function in letting locals and visitors alike know what is on offer culturally and entertainment - wise in the vicinity. Most of the commercial buildings are well maintained but there are a number of derelict houses throughout the town, including those on the way up to the Fairgreen which need to be targeted for attention in the future. No doubt, premises such as Littletons and others which are for sale at the moment will receive a face lift when they have a new owner. The Cinema is to be commended for keeping the natural street facade and for providing window boxes. The Garda Station and the Dispensary are well maintained, as is the Church and the Presbytery. However, some more planting of year- round shrubs for colour at all these locations would be suggested. The Bank of Ireland has provided some nice flower tubs at their premises -

unfortunately the design of the building is rather out of character with the town. We noted the ongoing work to the Courthouse. On the Kilkishen approach the arched stone building has potential for a nice development and it is good to see the stone house at the junction of the Limerick/Gort road being restored. Mean Scoil Iosep is very well maintained and planted at the front of the building - however, at the rear backing on to the other road it is rather stark and perhaps some judicious planting here could screen the many refuse containers situated there.

## **LANDSCAPING**

The work on the Fairgreen is to be commended - it is now a very pleasant and welcoming area. Because it is on an elevated site the views here are very good and we would suggest that some vandal-proof seating be provided in order that locals/visitors may sit and enjoy these views. On the Kilkishen approach the green triangle with flower beds is very pleasant and well maintained. Near the triangular area with the concrete bollards there is a pleasant green area opposite. However the flower containers here needing weeding and planting up. The landscaping of the area near the library is nicely designed but here again there were mostly weeds in the flower beds on the day of inspection. Opposite the Dispensary the tubs of flowers provided by the houses there are to be welcomed. The tree planting on the Ennis approach is to be commended - the new trees would need watching and perhaps some more protection to ensure their survival. The bad weather to date this year has no doubt hindered your landscaping plans - hopefully 1999 will not be as inclement !

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

This is a relatively new area of the competition. In essence it means that each town should take account of the natural environment and the wildlife in the area and balance any development accordingly. Whilst hedges and banks should be cut in the town it is better for wildlife that further out these are left in a natural state to encourage the flora and fauna of the area. A good exercise would be to involve the school children, with expert guidance, to undertake a study to determine the wildlife in the area and their natural habitats. Some berry bushes could be set in the fairgreen to assist the bird life of the area and shrubs such as buddleia are known to attract butterflies. The five loop walks developed by FAS would come under this category.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

On the day there was not a great amount of litter to be seen in Tulla - all the litter bins were full. We note that you are at present seeking to have new bins installed throughout the town and to secure a collection service - the latter is as important as providing bins as they must be emptied promptly on a regular basis. Here again, the whole community must be educated and involved.

## **TIDINESS**

Mostly the town was neat and tidy with weed- free pathways. The hardware and building materials supply yards on the Scarriff road were quite orderly and neat on the day of inspection. However, also on the Scarriff road the old creamery site needs to be tidied and perhaps screened by planting.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

In general the private residences and housing estates in the town were well maintained and presented with a few exception. It should be noted that the walls and surrounds of a property are as important to keep painted and well maintained as the houses themselves. The green areas at the entrance to the two estates opposite Taltys Veterinary Surgery were nicely planted and maintained. However, some dumping at the top of the second estate down should be removed. The residential houses on the Scarriff approach near the Church are well maintained including their surrounds. Imaginative use of colour is again used in this street by private residences.

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

On the approach roads generally, the hedges, banks and verges were well maintained and signage is good throughout the town. There are a number of water hydrants which should be painted up and made more of a feature of the town. It was noted that new footpaths were being laid outside the School on the Kilkishen approach which should improve this area.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION.**

There is obviously a commitment to the town of Tulla by its people and it has the potential to do well in the Competition in the future. We look forward to seeing future progress.