

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **THOMASTOWN**  
County : **KILKENNY**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>203</b>

## **Thomastown, County Kilkenny**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for all the information and the map sent with your entry form which was most useful on adjudication day. The following comments are by way of a progress report. Many of the problems which were mentioned in 1996 and 1997 are still with you but generally speaking there has been an overall improvement in the presentation of Thomastown which can only be attributed the influence which the Tidy Towns committee is exerting on all concerned. Congratulations on this. It was mostly interesting to read through your plan. You should now endeavour to prioritise various projects which can be achieved within your physical and financial resources over the next 5 years and setting a time scale for these developments. Success in the competition does not come overnight and while you have many problems which you must work on long term, there are still a number of short term projects under the various headings for the competition which you can tackle on an annual basis.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Congratulations on your work at the Quay. This shows a tremendous improvement on last year as indeed do the approaches from the Waterford side. Your riverside developments near the castle were also noted. The church and its buildings in the immediate surrounding area including St. Josephs Nursing Home were again very well presented. The whole area in the immediate vicinity of the church is indeed a showpiece and congratulations must also be extended to the many private house owners who have such lovely gardens in that vicinity. Schools again look well and it was gratifying to read that work will shortly commence on Mullins Castle. The spire of the church off the main street looks very dilapidated and badly needs tidying up. Commercial premises again seem to have entered into the spirit of the competition and indeed this spirit seems to have extended into other streets beyond the main street which, as usual, looked exceptionally well. Derelict sites are a continuous problem and can only be tackled in the long term. The comments made last year in this respect are still applicable.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Approach roads looked reasonably well and in this respect the Waterford approach is a good example. Work was noticed in progress on adjudication day. The planting of a bed of shrubs on the Waterford Road was noted. Open spaces are being well treated and where presented tubs and hanging baskets looked well. As already mentioned the area around the Catholic Church is exceptional and the grounds of the church in particular were a blaze of colour on adjudication day. Please do consider further landscaping along the lines suggested in last year's report.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Your comments on the entry form regarding your activities in this respect have been noted. Again this is a long term project but, if it can be implemented will gain you additional marks in the competition.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

On adjudication day the town was completely litter free. For a town of its size this is a magnificent achievement and congratulations are due to all concerned. However there was some evidence of litter in some of the housing estates visited and in this connection it is gratifying to read that you have formed a Resident's Association and that they will have representation on your committee. It is noted that the schools in the town are involved in your anti-litter campaign, this is to be highly commended as unfortunately sometimes children can be the culprits when it comes to littering.

## **TIDINESS**

Overall Thomastown was presented in a much tidier manner this year and in spite of your many problems with derelict and old buildings, looked very well on adjudication day. Open storage can be a problem and looks very unsightly. The Burmah petrol station and garage on the Gowran Road was exceptionally well presented. Unfortunately the same could not be said for its nearby Texaco neighbour.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

As already mentioned, these were visited on adjudication day. In most cases they were very well presented and many had excellent gardens which were in full bloom. However open spaces are not being cared for to any great extent. Cloghabrody Heights are the exception to this but, on adjudication day, the remains of their grass cuttings which had now changed to hay were left lying on the open spaces which made them somewhat unsightly. Ideally open spaces should be cut regularly to give them a crisp look.

## **ROADS, STREET AND BACK AREAS**

Approach roads generally looked well and please note the comments made in last year's report regarding grass verges. The road to Mount Juliet again was exceptionally well kept and indeed that whole area was very well presented including the landscaping notably at Super- Valu and the car park. Road surfaces are good in and around Thomastown and pathways are being well maintained.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

You have done excellent work again this year and this will be

reflected in your markings. The implementation of your 5 year plan will again you extra marks in the future. Continue to liaise closely with your local authority, Coillte, FAS and your Regional Tourism Authority(RTA) who have an office in Kilkenny. The RTA run an annual seminar for Tidy Towns groups with special guest speakers and it well worth attending. It also presents an opportunity for you to meet with other Tidy Towns committees and to share their experiences, a matter which might be followed up later with a visit to such places as Inistioge, Ardmore(Co. Waterford). Rossadrehid in South Tipperary and indeed Kilkenny City itself all of whom have had major success in the competition.