

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SILVERMINES**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	231	225

Silvermines, Tipperary N.R.

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is obvious that a dedicated band of people have worked hard for a number of years to bring the village of Silvermines to its present state of development. The excellent result achieved involved the Local Authority, FAS, Shannon Development and other bodies. But, of course, the most vital people who obviously became involved and committed are the entire community of Silvermines. There is work still to be done but the achievements to date (which will be mentioned under different headings) are considerable. Thank you for the detailed information and maps/diagrams sent with your application form. These were very concise and helpful to the adjudicator on the day. Your plans for the future sound exciting.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church dominates the village of Silvermines and is very well maintained, as indeed is the School. Hillview and Santa Maria Bed and Breakfast premises are also contributing to the Tidy Towns effort. On the Dublin road we noted that the small bridge has been faced with stone which enhances its appearance. There is a derelict house on this road for which it would be good to find a long term solution such as has happened with the purchasing of the other vacant house in the village. This latter building, when refurbished, will make a great difference to the streetscape. We note that you have plans for the Cornish Mine Engine house - this is to be welcomed as the considerable amount of ivy on this building at present would be detrimental to its stability in the long term. The Garage and petrol pumps in the village are in rather poor condition and perhaps the owner could be encouraged to upgrade same. Also, a wooden sign at Ryans Lounge Bar would be more appropriate than the present plastic one.

LANDSCAPING

The numerous sites which have been landscaped throughout the village and on the approach roads are exceptional and maturing nicely. Your total of 3000 trees and shrubs planted over the past four years is impressive. The creepers planted are "softening " the walls at the back of the Church and also on the Nenagh road and the planting at the entrance to the Cornish Engine House should mask the concrete here when fully mature and in bloom. Cuan Mhuire is a haven of peace and tranquillity with its lovely rose beds, unique wooden structure and appropriate seating. However, the gravel was rather weedy here and should be sprayed early. It was good to see the grotto being tended, the grass being cut in two separate areas and

the fencing being creosoted in the village on the day of adjudication and no doubt this type of activity is ongoing throughout the year. The tree planting throughout the village is maturing nicely and is an investment in the future. The riverside amenity area is very pleasant with its wooden seating, planting and bridge to the nature trail. All the planting, grassed areas and trees, as mentioned above, are exceptional but a little more attention to detail regarding cutting of grass and hedges may be needed in the high marking area of the Competition which you have now reached in order to maximise your potential.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Silvermines have taken this category on board and are to be congratulated on the development of appropriately signposted nature trails, wild flower meadow and wild life habitat areas.

LITTER CONTROL

Your efforts on litter awareness are obviously working as there was only a very small amount of litter to be seen in the village and surrounds - a sprinkling up at the viewing area, also on the Ballinahinch road and one crisp bag in the stream at the water amenity. Litter bins were noted (not on trees as previously we are glad to say) and were strategically placed in the village and at the viewing point. The one at the amenity area with the informational map was rusting and needed attention or replacement.

TIDINESS

The village was mainly tidy throughout with no kerbside weeds to be seen. Some new houses are being built and should be encouraged to complete their premises and surrounds to a high standard. We noted that the fly posting in regard to the village's resistance to the proposed dump in the area will be removed on resolution of the problem.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most private houses are contributing to the Tidy Towns effort in the village and on approach roads. However, it must be remembered that the surround walls as well as the houses should also be painted and grass and weeds cleared by the roadside.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Roads and back areas are mostly well maintained with road verges needing attention on the Ballinahinch approach. Where this ring road re-joins the Ballinahinch road, the Yield sign needed to be replaced and the remains of a bonfire at the vee was unsightly. Other signage was good

throughout - poles and railings painted black and white and other signs clean. At the viewing point, the old Shannonside Tourism informational map should be replaced.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A village which has addressed itself fully and with enthusiasm to all categories in the Tidy Towns Competition. One where there are now very few problems to be remedied and where residents and visitors alike may enjoy the fruits of the community's work and foresight over the years.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (07/08/99)

The attractive village of Silvermines is set in some magnificent scenery especially from the Viewing Point above the village – this area sported some unfortunate litter on adjudication day in particular (and strangely!) beneath the litter bin! More litter was evident by the village pump opposite the church. The rusty pole and rusty verticals for the Information Board created a bad impression – this latter, as mentioned by the first adjudicator, will need to be replaced. The village centre is attractive with its trees marching up each side of the main street, its vista terminated by the church. Some gable walls of houses at the crossroads appeared to be quite grubby. However, the Post Office was simply presented and the national school was very fresh – however its gates appeared to be quite rusty. Ó Ciarda's is an attractive traditional front with its traditional lettering. J. Ryans is also a fine example. The flower filled troughs on main street were admired as was the attractive stream area.