

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **THURLES**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	28	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	202	197

Thurles, Tipperary North

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the detailed questionnaire plus the comprehensive work plan which is excellently portrayed by photographs and on the map of the town and its environs. Thurles has become a very busy commercial town and the volume of traffic through it is immense. There is excellent co-operation between the committee, businesses and statutory bodies. It is also encouraging to see that individual residents associations are contributing to the Tidy Towns effort. Keep up the good work.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Thurles is a town which has some very impressive buildings both public and private and most of these buildings are in very good condition. For a town of its size it has very little glaring dereliction although it is a pity to see such a fine example of an old shopfront like "T Morris" so tatty, hopefully this fine building can be restored to its former glory. The number of plastic signs is beginning to decrease in the town as businesses are reverting back to old traditional style frontages, this is a very welcome development. The public and religious buildings most notably the stately Cathedral are all in good condition. The following also deserve praise for the standard of presentation. Ahernes Service Station on the Holycross Road, Barretts Coachyard Inn on Kickham Street, Paddy Doyles Barber Shop on the corner of Kickham Street. Dwan's Brewhouse is a very attractive stone building and very inviting inside. The old Munster Hotel has been raised to the ground to be replaced by a new hotel, hopefully the new structure will be in keeping with the existing streetscape. There were a number of very impressive private residences to be seen on entrances from Cashel, Nenagh and Templemore. Michael Moran's Drapers Shops were also very well presented with nice colour schemes. One could go on being repetitive but these are some of the premises that attracted this adjudicator's attention. I am also looking forward to the completion of the Tipperary Rural Development Institute. On the negative side the Bus Depot/Railway Station needs to be revitalised.

LANDSCAPING

This is a category that Thurles has done well in over the years and this year is no exception. The planting initiatives undertaken at both Collins and Childers Park area are amongst the best encountered by this adjudicator. Hopefully the GAA authorities will complement your efforts and give Semple Stadium a brighter facelift. Slievenamon Road was excellent, as was Cathedral Street at the junction of Mitchell

and Kickham Street. Individual planting schemes such as the one at Sli Na Siure are also very effective and attractive.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is important that the committee have some ongoing contact with those responsible for developments in this category. The Pheasant Island at the bridge is not alone a very attractive feature but also a haven for different species of wildlife. I feel that the committee should work in conjunction with other groups to get local schoolchildren, both primary and post primary, involved in developing further wildlife programmes.

LITTER CONTROL

Thurles has one of the most progressive anti litter programmes in the country, the results of which are beginning to show as most of the town was litter free. Unfortunately there was far too much litter to be seen in and around Semple Stadium and this was five days after a big match. However your initiatives are to be commended and the provision of additional bins is welcomed.

TIDINESS

This category was a little mixed; housing estates by and large were very good but there were areas on both the Holycross and Nenagh Roads that had too much weed growth and a number of messy mounds of gravel. The area around the TRDI has been cleaned up since last year. Again there were a number of signposts that need to be cleaned up, a quality inspection of signs should be undertaken and those in need of attention noted.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Some of the public and private housing developments in the town are indeed exceptional. Kennedy Park was a joy to behold it being in even better condition than last year. Collins Park and Inisfallen both established estates were also in very good condition. Elmwood and Winsdsor Grove on the Kilkenny and Littleton Roads respectively are good examples of new estates that will mature with time. Why do these developers have to resort to such un Irish names!

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard this year was a good deal higher than last year even though both the Nenagh and Moyne Road entrances were in need of attention especially the Nenagh Road which had unacceptable levels of weed growth in places. That being said progress is being made.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Thurles is an attractive large rural town, a bit congested on a Friday evening but its not alone in that. The Committee is very progressive and deserves further success for the way in which it has gone about tackling and in some cases resolving problem issues. Keep up the good work, progress is being made.