

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CAHIR**
County : **TIPPERARY SOUTH**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	26
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	191	186

Cahir, County Tipperary South

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The information submitted was most useful on adjudication day. Your development plan, which makes for very interesting reading, is very comprehensive and we look forward to seeing it being implemented. It is gratifying to read that you still have the support of the business community and the public in general. Shortage of manpower is common in most centres. You received an in-depth report from last year's adjudicator. The following comments therefore should be read in the context of that report.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Your public buildings mentioned last year and in addition your Garda Station, Fire Station and Colaiste Dun Iascaig looked very well. The vast majority of your commercial premises were very well presented and amongst the many petrol stations in the town the Texaco Service Station was outstanding. Your new Heritage Centre is also improving and is a very suitable development in the context of a Heritage Town. Unfortunately, the surroundings of Cahir Abbey did not look well. There was a high level of litter to be seen and the area surrounding the Crucifix was somewhat overgrown. This was indeed a pity as the Abbey is an important part of Cahir's heritage.

LANDSCAPING

In general, landscaping and open spaces looked well. The possible exception being the car park area [behind Cahir House Hotel] - the open space of which was somewhat overgrown. The area surrounding the Tourist Information Office including the major car park was very well presented and is a great tribute to all concerned. When carrying out future landscaping try to think in terms of trees and shrubs which would give you some colour on an all-year-round basis. Beds of flowers look extremely well but only for short periods and need high maintenance.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You do not mention in your entry form that you have undertaken a project under this heading. The current thinking is that a Committee should designate an area in or close to the town for preservation and development for the purpose of attracting wildlife. Should your Committee decide to embark on this type of project it would be extremely useful if, on your entry form next year you would indicate where this area is so that the adjudicator can have

sight of it. It was noticed that, in last year's report, there was mention of The Inch Field as an area which had great potential and that some work had already been done there. Perhaps this could be expanded for next year.

LITTER CONTROL

The centre of Cahir was practically litter-free on adjudication day. Congratulations to all concerned. However some of the side streets, one or two of the housing estates, a small area in the surrounds of the Railway Station and, as already mentioned Cahir Abbey did have incidence of litter which took away from the overall appearance of the town. However work on litter collection was noticed during the adjudication visit. This is important aspect of the Competition and needs constant monitoring.

TIDINESS

There is an unusually high level of building work being carried out in Cahir at the moment. This has led to some untidiness but this necessity has been taken into consideration by the adjudicator. Otherwise the town was presented in a very neat and tidy manner. Your correspondence regarding signs, hanging and otherwise, was noted. Please keep up the pressure in this respect. Cahir is a Heritage Town. Therefore try to encourage in as much as you can the provision of appropriate "heritage type" signposting e.g. hanging lettered signs instead of the protruding plastic ones, etc. Overall, and while some of the comments in last year's report still apply, Cahir looked extremely well and for this congratulations are due to the community in general.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

On all approach roads individual houses looked exceptionally well. Some had magnificent gardens. This is obviously a very important aspect of your Tidy Towns effort and the wonderful co-operation that you appear to be getting from individual householders is exemplary. Housing estates again looked well. Somerville Close and College Court were excellent. There was however some slight evidence of litter in other estates, but in general, all were well presented. If you have not already done so you should endeavour to form Residents Associations and incorporate members thereof on your Committee.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads without exception looked well. Verges, within reason, were neat and tidy. Streets within the town are being well kept as indeed are footpaths which the adjudicator noticed were wheelchair friendly. Approach roads are again a very important part of the Competition as

they tend to create an impression for the rest of the town. Signposting is reasonably good and your correspondence regarding multilingual signs has also been noticed.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Cahir is a very compact town with a tremendous potential in the Competition. It could and should be adapted more to the heritage concept in terms of shop fronts, hanging signs, preservation of buildings, etc. Try to use as many of your open spaces as you can for landscaping purposes. In this connection perhaps a visit by your Committee to Kilsheelan and/or Kilkenny City might be useful and may give you some ideas for the future. On the whole, great credit is due to your Committee and all concerned for the work that is being done. In the implementation of your 5 year plan do consult with as many people as possible, in terms of your Local Authority, the Irish Wildlife Conservancy, local experts on flowers and landscaping, your Regional Tourism Authority and the Office of Public Works who, in many cases, are only too glad to be of help.