

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASHEL**
County : **TIPPERARY SOUTH**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	24
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	16	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	175	170

Cashel, County Tipperary South

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The information supplied with the entry form was most useful on adjudication day. It is gratifying to read that you are receiving some local sponsorship and that you are working in co-operation with your Local Authority, FAS and local schools. This is very encouraging as it is almost impossible to proceed or succeed without this type of help. The adjudicator last year gave you an in-depth report. The following should therefore be read within the context of that report and are comments on progress made since last year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

All public buildings viewed were well presented. These include the Churches, the Schools, the Bru Boru, St Patrick's Hospital, the Garda Station [looking resplendent in its new coat of paint], the Teagasc building, the Heritage Centre, and many more. In general, commercial premises were also well presented although some do need a coat of paint. Unfortunately, there is still some dereliction and a hoarding with fly-posting does not help. Last year's comments regarding excessive signage still applies. Perhaps this is a problem which could be discussed with the local Chamber of Commerce. The vast amount of commercial signs does not lend itself to a Heritage Town.

LANDSCAPING

Your new landscaping on the Golden road and the Dualla road were observed and looked very well. The town is also beginning to benefit from landscaping of previous years, most notably on the Cahir and Dundrum roads. However in some cases open spaces did need attention and weeding in the gutters in close proximity to the town on the Golden road took away from what was otherwise a very nice approach. Landscaping at Bru Boru is excellent and will be entered for the Landscape Award.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You do not mention in your entry form that you have undertaken a project under this heading. The thinking is that a committee should designate an area close to or in the adjudication area for preservation and development for the attraction of wildlife. In this connection notes in the Tidy Towns Handbook will be useful. In the event you should also consult with the Irish Wildlife Conservancy. Should you decide on a project for next year please do make mention of it on your entry form and identify the location so that the adjudicator can have sight of it. In the meantime a

nominal mark will be given under this heading.

LITTER CONTROL

In general, litter control was good, particularly in the centre of the town. However, on the outskirts and in some housing estates, some litter was to be seen. This is an important part of the Competition and needs regular monitoring.

TIDINESS

Many of the comments made by last year's adjudicator under this heading are still applicable. However, in general the town was reasonably well presented, a major achievement when one considers the enormous throughput of traffic. Hogan Place looked extremely well and certainly sets a headline for the rest of the town. As already mentioned, some rationalisation needs to be brought to the abundance of hanging signs. Perhaps a way of doing this and with the consent of owners, would be to take a pilot area in the town and, using the best advice available, redesign appropriate signage.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many of the housing estates in the town were visited on adjudication day. In the absence of nameplates it was difficult to identify particular areas but, in the main, they all looked well with open spaces in reasonable condition. Some minor littering was observed. If you have not already done so you should endeavour to form Residents Associations in these estates and have representation from them on your Committee. Some centres also run housing estate competitions to create a friendly rivalry for which awards are given. Private houses looked excellent. Many had lovely gardens which were in full bloom on adjudication day. The support of private residents is absolutely vital if one is to succeed in the Competition.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads looked reasonably well. Adjudication normally takes place from the town nameplates inwards so the condition of hedgerows and verges from those points need to be monitored regularly. This is also an important part of the Competition as approach roads very often set the tone for the rest of the town. Road surfaces in Cashel itself looked well and pathways appeared to be well maintained.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It is very gratifying to have Cashel, a major Heritage Town, in the Competition but you do have many problems. There is a need to draw up a 3 to 5 year plan setting out your

hopes and ambitions for the solving of these problems. This can be done simply in conjunction with your Local Authority, FAS, your Chamber of Commerce, and because of the heavy emphasis on tourism, your local tourism committee. Your Regional Tourism Authority [based in Waterford City] can also advise in this respect. With the proposed Cashel by-pass there will be an opportunity to concentrate more on litter control and general tidiness. This opportunity should not be missed. Your ambition should be to make Cashel, in five years time, the tidiest litter-free Heritage Town in Ireland.