

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLONMEL**
County : **TIPPERARY SOUTH**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	36
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	26	24
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	210	203

Clonmel, County Tipperary South

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The information supplied was most useful. We are pleased that you still continue to have the full support of Clonmel Corporation, South Tipperary County Council, FAS, ESB, Telecom Eireann, etc. You received last year an in-depth report. The following is by way of comment on the progress you have been making since last year to be read in the context of the 1998 report. The adjudicator was very impressed with your Tidy Towns submission which is an indication of the amount of planning and detail which you have gone into as part of the overall effort.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As last year ``public buildings and commercial properties were presented in an exceptional manner. Many commercial premises in particular were outstanding and it was gratifying to note in many cases the move back towards the provision of traditional shopfronts where possible. As a consequence two of these shopfronts have been nominated for the Traditional Irish Shopfront Award and the New Shopfront Award. Pedestrianisation has brought a wonderful ambience to Clonmel which could very well be copied by many other centres.

LANDSCAPING

Your landscaping programme is obviously one of the main planks of your Tidy Towns effort and in this respect is excellent. However the emphasis is very much on flowerbeds. For the future give some consideration to planting trees and shrubs which will give you some colour on an all-year-round basis. Flowerbeds do look lovely but generally only have a short period in which to bloom. They also require heavy maintenance. The new roundabout on the by-pass road will, we feel sure, be landscaped in time while the existing roundabouts were looking resplendent and full of colour. The Richard Mulcahy Town Park looked extremely well on adjudication day. It was beautifully kept, well laid out and creates a wonderful impression of Clonmel and its environment.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You did not mention in your application form that you had carried out any wildlife project this year. However last year's report would seem to indicate that this is an area which is receiving attention. The thinking at the moment is that your Committee might consider designating an area either in or close to Clonmel which would be designated for

development for the retention or attraction of wildlife. In that event, please convey this information with next year's application form so that the adjudicator can see sight of it. Perhaps the area of river with the weir, open space and seating would be an ideal choice for such a project.

LITTER CONTROL

The centre of Clonmel was practically litter-free on adjudication day. Congratulations to all concerned. However there was some evidence of littering particularly along the riverside walk where a lot of litter was to be seen is some of the flowerbeds. This year, unlike last year, the forecourt of shopping centres were completely litter-free and again congratulations are due to all concerned.

TIDINESS

On adjudication day Clonmel was indeed a 'Tidy Town' - very well presented in all areas. For a town of its size this is a remarkable achievement and reflects great credit on the townspeople and your Local Authority. It is felt that the zoning of the town may have also helped considerably under this heading.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

While it was not possible to see all the housing estates in Clonmel, those that were visited were excellent. In most cases they were practically litter-free. However in practically all cases, open spaces were in need of cutting and some individual houses perhaps needed a coat of paint. Individual private houses, in the main, looked excellent and many had some outstanding gardens. As housing estates and private residences are a very important aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition and, if you have not already done so, you should try to form Residents Associations where possible. In many centres where this has happened the Committee also run a competition for housing estates and for individual houses which has tended to create an atmosphere of friendly rivalry which all adds to the Tidy Towns effort.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads were excellent and very well presented. It was lovely to see, particularly on the back road to Carrick-on-Suir the profusion of wildflowers growing on the tops of walls. The new landscaping on the approach from Carrick-on-Suir being carried out in conjunction with road works was also noted.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Clonmel is that of a busy, vibrant town. Pedestrianisation has introduced a whole new aspect to its environment as indeed have the many excellent commercial developments which have added variety and colour. Traffic management however is becoming a problem. Your Committee are doing excellent work. Congratulations to all concerned.