

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GOLDEN**
County : **TIPPERARY SOUTH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	27
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	194	191

Golden, County Tipperary South

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The information sent with your entry form and the map were most useful on adjudication day. Last year you received an in-depth report from the adjudicator. The following should therefore be read in the context of that report and is by way of comment on further progress made to date. The suggestion regarding the 3 to 5 year plan is still applicable. Golden has tremendous potential but would appear to lack a co-ordinated plan which should include the Local Authority and FAS.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Golden does not have very many public buildings but the church and school looked well on adjudication day. As mentioned last year, the Garda barracks is badly in need of painting. Commercial premises throughout the village also looked well. However some needed a coat of paint.

LANDSCAPING

This aspect of the Competition would appear to be the main plank in your Tidy Towns effort. Excellent work has been carried out at the GAA park, in housing estates and on the Tipperary approach road. The village park also looked extremely well and work taking place on the main flower bed in the park was noticed on adjudication day. The area around the castle also looked well. In this adjudicator's view the area surrounding the castle has tremendous potential for landscape development and could become the focal point of the whole village. It probably calls for the services of a landscape designer but would pay dividends in terms of a tourist attraction in the long term. Unfortunately, the slip-way down to the river was again untidy and was very littered.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Last years adjudicators comments and your own comments in the entry form have been noted. Golden is ready made for such a project which could be part of the castle area development as mentioned above. The thinking at the moment is that a Committee should designate a location which could be developed and preserved for the attraction of wildlife. Notes in the Tidy Towns handbook will be helpful in this respect. In the event you should also consult with the Irish Wildlife Conservancy. The adjudicator to reading more about this perhaps in next years entry form.

LITTER CONTROL

With the exception of the slip-way already mentioned, Golden was practically litter free on adjudication day. Some other small items of litter were to be seen on the road out of Golden towards Tipperary. This is an important part of the Competition and needs constant monitoring. Perhaps a few more litter bins in suitable location might solve the problem.

TIDINESS

Generally speaking Golden was presented in a neat and tidy manner. This reflects great credit on the local residents who obviously have a pride in their environment, however, it is an aspect of the Competition which also needs constant monitoring.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

All housing estates in the village were visited and were very well presented. Open spaces looked very well but need to be constantly cut in order to give them a crisp look. The bird table on the triangle was noted. The rural houses also looked splendid many had very nice gardens which were in full bloom on adjudication day. It was gratifying to read and indeed to see the support that your Committee is getting from the residents which is all important in a small village if progress in the Competition is to be made. Congratulations to all concerned.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads looked well, the best one probably being that from the Tipperary direction. This is also an important part of the Competition as approach roads generally set the tone for the rest of the village. Adjudication normally takes place from the village name plates inwards and the condition of these roads and hedgerows and grass verges should be monitored from time to time. Perhaps this is an area where your Local Authority can be of assistance. The streets in the village and the footpaths are being well maintained.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Overall a splendid effort is being made in Golden. However the potential, as I earlier mentioned, is enormous and calls for careful planning over a 3 to 5 period. This can be done very simply with your Local Authority and FAS except perhaps should you decide to act on the advice regarding the castle area in which case a landscape expert might be required. It could be beneficial for your Committee to travel to Emly and, or Kilsheelan and meet with the Committees

there who would be glad to tell you of their achievement and success in a similar situation and from small beginnings. Your Regional Tourism Authority also run a Tidy Towns Seminar with Specialist guest speakers which is well worth attending. In the meantime keep up the good work !