

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TIPPERARY**
County : **TIPPERARY SOUTH**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21	--
The Built Environment	40	23	--
Landscaping	40	22	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	--
Litter Control	40	21	--
Tidiness	20	12	--
Residential Areas	30	21	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	162	--

Tipperary Town, County Tipperary **South**

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

After an absence of two years we welcome Tipperary back into the competition and wish them every success. The information on the entry form, the map and Mission Statement were most useful. Tipperary Town is a very big centre with, in terms of the Tidy Towns Competition, many major problems but they are not insurmountable. It is encouraging to note that you have the support of the Tipperary LEADER Group, FAS, and the Tipperary Chamber of Commerce. If you have not already done so, you do however need to enlist the full co-operation of Tipperary Urban District Council, otherwise many of the problems you have will be difficult to solve.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Tipperary Town has many public and service buildings, all of which were viewed on adjudication day. Overall, it would be fair to say that the churches, schools, Garda Barracks, community centre, the Canon Hayes Sports Centre, etc, were well presented as you do not have many major problems in that respect. Commercial premises, too numerous to mention, also looked well although some could do with a coat of paint. Not unlike many other towns, Tipperary has a proliferation of signs on commercial premises, particularly in the Main Street and the other streets leading off it. This type of signposting takes away considerably from the overall appearance of these streets. Perhaps, as a major project, and in conjunction with the Tipperary Chamber of Commerce, it might be possible to implement a plan to rationalise this type of signposting.

LANDSCAPING

Those areas where landscaping has taken place looked well. Particularly noted was the landscaping on the Cahir approach, and also trees which have been planted at various points throughout the town. The trees at the GAA park are maturing nicely. Unfortunately, in many cases, open spaces are not being well kept, the exception being the green and bandstand area which looked very well. Many open spaces in housing estates need attention and, in some cases, were totally overgrown. When planning future landscaping give some thought to the provision of trees and shrubs which will give you some colour on an all-year-round basis. Flower beds look extremely well but only for a short period and require a lot of maintenance.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There is no indication on your entry form that you have undertaken a wildlife project this year. The thinking is that the Committee should designate an area in or near the adjudication area which would be preserved and developed for wildlife. In the case of Tipperary, the Hills, in the opinion of this adjudicator, would be an ideal site for such a project. In the event of you undertaking to carry out a project under this heading for next year, please include it on your entry form, giving details of 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

This is one of the big problem areas for Tipperary. Unfortunately, on adjudication day litter was to be seen practically everywhere. While the Main Street was reasonable in this respect, side streets and in particular, housing estates were disappointing. It was noticed that this problem received special mention in your Mission Statement and it is, undoubtedly, a problem for you. While additional litter bins are always welcome, they are, nevertheless, a number of bins throughout the town which, on adjudication day, were largely empty while litter was profuse on the ground. A major Anti-Litter Campaign needs to be mounted directed at the public in general but soliciting the support of school children. This aspect of Tidy Towns is rapidly becoming increasingly important and therefore the whole situation in Tipperary needs constant monitoring.

TIDINESS

Here again, in the opinion of this adjudicator, you have another problem. It was remarkable, on adjudication day, the amount of goods that were being displayed on footpaths and also the amount of advertising hoarding, also on footpaths, which were to be seen. This created a very untidy appearance, particularly in the Main Street. This type of promotional activity also creates hazards for those who may have short or impaired sight. Tipperary is a busy commercial town but, unfortunately, an air of untidiness to prevails.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many of the housing estates in Tipperary were visited on adjudication day. Some were very well presented. Others were not. In some, as mentioned above, litter is a problem. In others, open spaces are not being well kept. It would be important, as part of your Tidy Towns efforts, to form Residents Associations and to incorporate members of these onto your Committee. This has worked very

successfully in other centres. Perhaps also you might have a competition for housing estates and in that way create a friendly rivalry for which awards might be given. Many individual houses look splendid and had excellent gardens which were in full bloom on adjudication day. This is an important and strong point in the Competition and is to be encouraged.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

It is very difficult, with so many roads leading into Tipperary, to keep these approach roads trimmed. The Cahir approach and the Golf Club / Glen of Aherlow approach looked well. Other roads need attention. The condition of approach roads is an important part of the Competition as they tend to set the tone for the rest of the town.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

As stated there are a number of major problems in Tipperary. Your Committee in conjunction with your Urban District Council, FAS, the Chamber of Commerce, etc, should draw up a 3 to 5 year plan to be implemented on a year-to-year basis within your physical and financial resources. In that event please forward a copy of the plan with your entry form for next year. The South East Regional Tourism Authority [based in Waterford City] also run an annual Tidy Towns Seminar at which they have a number of expert guest speakers. It would be well worth your while to attend this seminar and also to visit other centres like Kilsheelan, Kilkenny City and Clonmel to see what they have been doing. Many centres have started with similar problems to your own and have progressed very well in the Competition. Do not despair. Keep up the good work ! Obtain the best advice and information available to you. In that respect, the Tidy Towns Handbook should be useful . The Department of the Environment & Local Government at Custom House, Dublin also have a number of leaflets and brochures on environmental matters.