

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **TINAHELY**  
County : **WICKLOW**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	28
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	23	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	23	24
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	21	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	4	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>181</b>

## **Tinahely, County Wicklow**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your completed entry form and map which could have been some what more detailed. It is obvious that you will need additional support in your efforts. Tinahely could be a very attractive market town. As other towns throughout of a similar nature have made significant improvements, there is no reason why Tinahely cannot do it also. In relation to the Overall Developmental Approach, Tinahely has a number of focal points, most noticeably the Market Square. While it is recognised that work is going on in this area surely a better effort could be made to ensure the area is well maintained and kept litter free. The wide bridge area as one approaches the square could be enhanced. The built environment really does impress visitors to the town, so, major efforts must be made here to ensure premises are painted and well presented. Landscaping is another area that could improve visual appearance. An attractive, pleasant town will encourage visitors and travellers to stop and spend money in the village as opposed to simply passing through. Try to impress this fact upon the business community in order to encourage them to get involved.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The Tidy Towns Committee need to refer to the Tidy Towns Handbook and to seek out additional help from the relevant local authority in relation to improving the appearance of Tinahely. In terms of the Built Environment this includes all buildings. In this regard Tinahely has a long way to go. The Market House is currently under restoration as it has been for some time. Rothwell Garage would benefit from painting as it provides a focal point for travellers along this approach road. The treatment of Black Tom's in terms of improved shop front, is not in the view of the adjudicator appropriate and lacks thought and insight. It is a pity that more consideration wasn't given to the use of traditional shop front design. Court House and grounds were well maintained as was the Teagasc Grounds. The Garda Station was also tidy. At the Fire Station surely a more attractive tower could have been constructed as it provides an important vista from around the town. Tinahely also seems to suffer from a number of derelict houses which will obviously be a problem for some time. The Eastern Health Board grounds were tidy this year, well done. On the road leading to Shillelagh Road, little effort has been made by some residents to enhance this narrow strip. Ensuring that premises are freshly painted as was the case with one premises that was being painted on day of adjudication, together with the simple use of flower boxes would help improve the appearance of this street. D Chambers was

well presented as was Fitzgerald Furniture, well done in this regard. There were also too many stickers in the window of Myse and surely the presentation of the area around Tinahely nameplate near Market House could be improved. A new shop front was being developed at the corner and the adjudicator looks forward to the completion of this.

## **LANDSCAPING**

There appears to be a very limited landscaping of open spaces throughout Tinahely; one of the limited areas where landscaping had taken place i.e., around the Market House consisted of an uncared area with litter evident, weeds and shrubbery and trampled on. There is not much point in making improvements to the streetscape by planting shrubs if they are not going to be maintained. There is also scope to develop other landscaped areas particularly on the approach roads. Limited tree planting within the urban spaces along the square and main street might also be considered.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Little or no information was provided on the wildlife area, despite the fact that Tinahely is blessed with a river running right through the town. Try to approach this category by encouraging school children to become involved in projects to identify wildlife habitats. Last years comments should be reconsidered and also refer to the Tidy Towns Handbook in terms of trying to make progress under this category.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Local authorities are now required to prepare Litter Management Plans every 3 years; consult your local authority, Wicklow County Council, in this regard in relation to what proposals and plans have been put forward for Tinahely. In this regard litter control, was not bad overall. The litter bins noted outside the Pharmacy were overflowing, suggesting the need for more regular maintenance. Litter was also noted around the square by the Bus Stop and seating area; for a small village you are going to have to work on this through education and enforcement.

## **TIDINESS**

A new telephone kiosk was noted on the Shillelagh road. Painting the Yellow Water Pump would be one simple way of improving overall appearance. Have yours plans for encouraging re - cycling among residents and business community? Let adjudicator know what you are doing in this regard as they cannot award marks for information is not provided.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

While some very good individual residential efforts are evident throughout Tinahely surely a better effort could be made by the residents of the housing estate on the Coolgreany Road. This is probably the single biggest area that you should work on under this category for next years competition. Try to encourage the residents to have more pride in their estate.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

On the approach road from Aughrim the lack of attention to detail does not create a positive impression. The Tinahely sign needs to be replaced and the open space by the sign needs to be improved. The grass verges on the right hand side need to be cut. On the approach road from Shillelagh, try to paint or replace the sign. On the approach from Hacketstown, the verges needed a cutting. The open space on the left hand side after the sign also needs planting. Try to approach the local authority to enlist their support in terms of trying to make improvements in this area for next year.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The adjudicator was disappointed that efforts by the residents and commercial interests of Tinahely were not more extensive. You have to approach this competition in a number of ways. 1, is planning, 2, is ensuring that you have adequate resources and support 3, let the adjudicator know what is happening in terms of priorities each year, what has been achieved in previous years and also identify problem areas. The adjudicator was saddened that more pride isn't placed on improving the appearance of Tinahely because you really do have a potentially very nice, attractive village. Please accept that the comments made in this report are intended to provide you with helpful suggestions for improving and are in no way intended to offend. The adjudicator looks forward to a greater effort for next years competition. Don't be disheartened; you should be very proud of you're village, Tinahely could do very well in the competition in years to come if you plan properly.