

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TULLOW**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	35
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	218	212

Tullow, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your detailed five year plan which very clearly sets out Tullow's objectives for the next five years and your Litter Management Action Plan for the town. You have set out very clearly your programme of work to be undertaken over the coming years and have chosen a number of realistic objectives for each year which in the long term will yield results. It is noted that you continue to receive excellent co-operation from the Local Authority, local schools, FAS and the ESB. I would also advise that you contact Eircom and the local tourism officer from South East Tourism. They will also have valuable advice and expertise to give you. Your idea of dividing your plan into short, medium and long-term planning, is an excellent one. I know from your application form that you have only ten members on your committee. However your press cutting indicated that you had an attendance of 114 at your public meeting. This augurs well for the success of this plan. You will need the involvement of the whole community in your work over the next five years.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It is noted that a colour scheme is to be devised for shopfronts and businesses. This is a very good idea and should give a co-ordinated, overall effect. Many of the buildings are very well presented and they include: the Fire Station, Garda Station, schools and churches. In the meantime, many business proprietors have painted during the year. Work on the removal of plastic signage is needed, as is the promotion of greater visibility of the Irish language. A good example of this is McCabe's butchers shop. You also plan to tackle dereliction and encourage industrial properties to be tidier and to improve their presentation.

LANDSCAPING

The maintenance of the planted areas throughout is quite good, as is the management of open spaces. The area around the volunteer monument was well cared for, as was the planted area near the roundabout on the Castledermot Road. Pairc Oghma was untidy and needs maintenance. There were weeds in the entrance area among the big boulders. I note from your plan that work is ongoing in this area. The floral displays on the Town Hall and the Museum were most attractive. The rockery inside the gate of the Parish Centre should be stocked with shrubs. The one near the door has been completed and looks well. The open spaces on the inner relief road need more work done to them and there is scope there for tree and shrub planting. The planting which has been done in this area is maturing

nicely.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your plans for this aspect are most interesting and when completed you will have contributed hugely to this aspect of the town and to the benefit of the community. The river is your big asset and you have taken measures to develop river walkways. The improvements carried out on the river on the Castledermot Road are to be welcomed. This is something on which you have to keep working over the next few years. It is also important not to forget access for people with disabilities in the wildlife and natural amenity areas. You have made a good start by identifying the wildlife habitats in the area. Provide bi-lingual information signs where appropriate

LITTER CONTROL

The action plan drawn up for litter management is very comprehensive. This should help to improve this aspect for you. There is a job to be done to encourage public awareness of the damage caused by litter. The overall control of litter was good throughout the town and in the housing estates. There was litter in the car park of the church. The car park with the recycling facilities had most litter, especially around the pole area at the end of the park. This area needs to be worked on. There were also some pieces of litter at the Volunteer monument, especially under the seats.

TIDINESS

The control of weeds at the kerbs and buildings does need attention and was to be observed on the Dublin Road and Gorey Road. Encourage individual property owners and communities on a co-ordinated basis to control weed growth at kerbs and base of buildings. The recycling facilities located in the car park need more careful management. There was dumping of bottles and other refuse in this area. Your proposed plans for a recycling centre and a new location for it, are to be welcomed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Overall the residential areas throughout are well cared for and presented to a good standard. You have a large area to maintain and develop. The work done on the Hillbrook Estate is indeed very good. The plants on the new wall and the shrubbery on the bank looked very well on the day. You have a grass cutting programme in maintaining the open spaces in Pairc Mhuire, the Green and Hawthorn Drive and it is very good. The Mount Wolsey housing looks very attractive, with a good selection of trees planted and nice lamps erected at the entrance. Pairc Mhuire has well

maintained properties but some boundary walls need attention. Your problem with cars and lorries parking on the grass verge has been noted and your plans to counteract this problem. The plans for St Patrick's Park and Belwood Drive will help to improve these areas. Most residents in Tullow present their properties very attractively and maintain them well.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The town centre in Tullow is extremely busy and presents traffic problems. While accepting that this problem is outside the scope of your committee, nevertheless, it does not help the upkeep and presentation of the town. The replacement/new footpath programme is well advanced and contributes to an improvement in the presentation. Together with the completion of this programme and the beginning of a resurfacing programme in the town streets, will, over time, contribute to enhance the appearance of your town. The car parks need more attention and the one nearest to the town centre needs resurfacing. The bridge is very well presented and the floral displays which are well maintained look attractive. The approach roads are well maintained. The recommendation, in the plan, for signage should be pursued. Some signs need replacement others need cleaning and painting.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Your five-year plan is an excellent one and your objectives are very clearly defined in it. The problems you have with the built environment hopefully will be overcome with the urban renewal programme. The committee have contributed hugely to the improvement of Tullow over the years and have now taken on a huge programme of work over the next five years. The co-operation of the community, Local Authority and other agencies will no doubt yield results in the years ahead.