

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ENNIS**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	47	46
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	35	33
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	251	244

Ennis, Co. Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The most comprehensive and detailed report submitted is of a standard seldom encountered in the Tidy Towns Competition. The amount of detail, photographic inclusion, detailed content of work achieved and in hand together with the many appendices all combine to give the adjudicator a full appreciation of your involvement in Tidy Towns. Despite the large population, large areas, numerous approach roads, commercial, cultural, sporting, educational, and environmental identities, you have nevertheless managed to harness the goodwill and commitment to the overall concept of Tidy Towns. Your attention to detail in your submission is commendable and it is obvious your efforts are being co-ordinated on a sustained basis. Your ability to involve so many organisations, agencies and the general public augurs well for your entry reaching an even higher pinnacle in due course.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The town was a hive of commercial activity on a pleasant July Tuesday. There is a great degree of colour throughout the town and many long established premises (i.e. Queens Hotel) are undergoing restoration and improvement. The county museum at Arthur's Row is a most welcome development. The Tourist Information Office is a welcome addition to this area and is appropriately located with an excellent layout. Many of the newly built or recently restored buildings throughout the town continue to look well and present a good trading image. You have done well again this year in making the traditional and new shopfronts attractive. Many have gone the extra mile and embellished their premises with attractive hanging baskets. Wall and Co. Solicitors looked excellent, together with Knok Lighting and many others. Of particular interest is the recent development of the lanes (and the naming of some) throughout the town. These are now an integral part of the town and feature in main stream commercialisation. They also offer an insight into the old fabric of the town as many of them belong to the mid 19th century.

LANDSCAPING

You have scored well again in this section. The great work of previous years has in many cases improved with the passing of time. Your programme of landscaping is praiseworthy and the rich plethora of flower, shrub and tree displays is enhancing the whole town area.

In particular the rich display of flowers – some with county colours is excellent. The approach from Tulla is superb and

reflects great enthusiasm from residents and committee members alike. The amount of trees planted in the town centre shows great commitment to the future and in fairness, commercial outlets have responded with window boxes (the Banks are excellent) and hanging baskets. Indeed, you might well consider stepping back and ask if you now have enough of landscaping. The embellishment of the four river bridges with attractive flower hangings is without comparison in any provincial town – so well done.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

With such a display of landscaping outlined in previous sections, it is not surprising that you have great scope for wildlife promotion. Your work on the river banks is commendable and there was a good deal of wildlife in evidence on the river during adjudication day. The large car park areas adjacent to the River Fergus offers scope for extra activity under this section.

LITTER CONTROL

To say that the town was litter free would be inaccurate. To say that the litter control was excellent would reflect truly what the adjudicator witnessed on adjudication day. This is to your credit in a town that has such a high activity of through put from tourists and local commercial life. The car parks in particular were well maintained. The approach roads were litter free and the only visible sporadic presence of some beer cans and crisp bags related to the forecourt of the Courthouse – above the De Valera monument and a littler near the Stanley Racing shop. You submitted a wonderful litter programme and this programme is serving you well. Congratulations on the performance of your litter wardens. Tackling the fast food operators is commendable and, full marks for your 'name and shame' policy. The quality of litterbins is excellent and they are strategically well placed throughout the town.

TIDINESS

The high quality of developments followed by effective landscaping helps to get around any degree of untidiness. You have done well in presenting an image of tidiness throughout. Your attention to detail in the many small open spaces is helping to maintain your marks in this section. Your green area co-ordinator is doing excellent work in involving the residents. Also, removing the sandwich advertising is praiseworthy and I'm sure not at all popular with the traders. You still have an offender or two.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

You are applying enormous energy and commitment to the many residential areas and your local competition is

praiseworthy. Meadow Court seemed a worthy winner to your 1999 Competition. The high number of entries for this competition commands great involvement – so well done. The standard of housing throughout is excellent and many individuals have excelled in this presentation. New housing schemes continue at a rapid pace and this will require more vigilance and more involvement from the committee to ensure that developments are followed by appropriate landscaping. That you can collect £4,000 for prize monies for your competition makes you unique.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Again, this year footpaths have been upgraded and the footpath on the Tulla approach near the Ennis Twinning Sign is excellent. Your ability to match stone wall building with tree planting and grassed areas is excellent as these provide an acceptable balance for landscaping excellence. Your biggest challenge is to further upgrade the standard of side and back entrances, which have been traditionally neglected.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A positive and vibrant image is what greets the visitor on arriving at Ennis. There is an air of commercial liveliness here and yet you are matching this liveliness with fresh and pleasing landscaping, strong cultural identity, and respect for your traditions. You are richly endowed with a beautiful river that is generous in its meandering and helps to connect the various areas of the town in good harmony. The physical evidence of churches and abbeys, monuments and sculpture, all contribute to the positive image that this capital town proclaims – well done once again.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (06/08/00)

Litter control was excellent during second adjudication also, although there were some weak spots, one being the Old Mill Street carpark and its environs. Litter was also noted on Linnane Terrace although this had been neatly swept into a pile. Black plastic bags were noted in the carpark at the top of the Kilrush road. Caravans of the travelling people were noted on the Station Road, however these did not present a problem in terms of presentation. Weed growth featured along the kerb out the Kilrush road, otherwise the presentation of this road was excellent. A water pump out the Milltown Malbay road was in need of refurbishment. Some boundary walls along this road also needed to be upgraded. The sculpture piece at the entrance to the hospital and several others throughout the town were much admired, as was the magnificent water feature at a roundabout. Several shopfronts have been photographed in O'Connell Street for consideration for the Shopfront Award. The Remembrance Garden was not

developed by the time of second adjudication and we look forward to experiencing this next year. The Youth Centre looks well. Buildings which need to be upgraded include the Ennis Kitchen Studio and Madden Carpet and Furniture premises. The heron noted in the river augers well for the wildlife value of the river and the town and seemed to be quite unperturbed by the nearby beer keg. Ennis is a beautiful town with many handsome features and was a pleasure to adjudicate. We admire your progress to date and wish you well with your future plans.