

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 27-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	26	27
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	219	218

Tullow, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for all the information sent with the entry form and for the map which was most useful on adjudication day. There appears to be many plans from many sectors of your community. For the purpose of the Tidy Towns Competition it is suggested that, for over a 3 to 5 year period you would select a number of projects to be carried out by your Group on an annual basis within your physical and financial resources. Excellent work has and is being done and it is indeed gratifying to read that you have the support of your Local Authority, Schools, FAS, local commercial interests and, of course, your community. You received last year an in-depth report from the adjudicator. The following should be read in tandem with that and taken as comment on further progress to date.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

On adjudication day, the Fire Station, Garda Station, Museum, Schools, Church and Parish Centre looked extremely well. The presentation of public buildings is an important part of the Competition and congratulations are due to all concerned. Tullow has many fine examples of stone walls and these are being very well maintained also. The walls on the road to the Mount Wolseley Golf Club were particularly notable. You still have a number of derelict sites. This is an area where your County Council can be of assistance as, under the Derelict Sites Act, they are empowered to take action against owners in certain circumstances. Commercial premises, in the main, looked well. Your proposal for a co-ordinated shopfront development approach is to be applauded and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing this being implemented over the next few years. The Bridge and its surroundings looked extremely well as did the Museum. The flagpoles need painting. The Father Murphy Memorial is also being very well maintained as is the '98 Memorial Garden.

LANDSCAPING

The majority of the landscaped sites mentioned in your Plan were visited. They were in full bloom and looked resplendent. Trees and shrubs planted in the past are maturing nicely. The entrance to the riverside area looked very well but, unfortunately, from thereon the vista deteriorated. Hanging baskets, window boxes and tubs of flowers, where presented, were very nice and are obviously being very well maintained. They created a very nice atmosphere throughout the town. For the future try to identify further areas which can be judiciously planted with trees and shrubs which will give some colour on an

all-year-round basis. Overall your planting programme is excellent and congratulations are again due to all concerned.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your comments under this heading have been noted. The River Slaney is an obvious place for such a project which, in the event, will not alone add to the attractiveness of Tullow for residents and visitors but will also gain you additional marks in the Competition. The Tidy Towns Handbook will help you in this respect and the Irish Wildbird Conservancy are always available for to give help and advice.

LITTER CONTROL

Tullow was practically litter-free on adjudication day. There was however some litter to be seen in side streets, in the area close to the Church carpark and in one or two of the housing estates. This is an important aspect of the Competition and needs constant monitoring. Many litter bins were noted throughout the town and for this your Committee and your Local Authority are to be praised.

TIDINESS

In general Tullow was presented in a neat and tidy manner. Unfortunately the area in the vicinity of the river does not look good. Problems associated with it were noted which would suggest that a firm stance has to be taken on the provision of a solution. This could be one of the feature areas of Tullow and would lend itself to landscaping. Tullow also has a major traffic problem which requires the implementation of a Traffic Plan.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the housing estates in Tullow were visited. Unfortunately many of them have no nameplates and therefore are unidentifiable. In the main however they looked well and mentioned in particular must be the Hill Brook estate, Court Lawns and Pairc Mhuire which are being very well maintained with some very nice open spaces and landscaping. Individual houses also looked extremely well and reflected greatly the interest in which their owners have in their environment. Many had gardens in full bloom which were a joy to behold. These give the town and its environs a wonderful ambience. Congratulations to all concerned.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads looked good. In particular the Leighlinbridge approach was very nicely presented as was the road from Mount Wolseley Village which has benefited from the wonderful landscaping at that project. The condition of approach roads is very important, as they tend to set the tone for the rest of the town. In this connection could it be suggested that you visit your near neighbour

Leighlinbridge to see what they have done in this respect. Road surfaces and pathways are being well maintained and additional work was noted.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Tullow is a busy commercial town but nevertheless is planning carefully for the preservation of its environment. This is to be highly commended. Continue to work closely with your Local Authority and other agencies on a coordinated basis. Many projects mentioned in your Plan have still to come to fruition and the adjudicator looks forward to coming back to Tullow again next year to see further progress. Keep up the good work.