

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	48	47
The Built Environment	40	36	34
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	9	7
TOTAL MARK	300	257	251

Ennis, Co. Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the application form and for the very comprehensive report on all the work, which has been carried out and is envisaged for the future. This was of great help to the adjudicator in viewing and making an assessment. Also thanks for the booklet which accompanied the submission which gives a detailed description of the history surrounding Ennis up to its most recent developments. Over the years, Ennis has consistently shown a very committed attitude to town improvement. This was often very difficult, because of the size of the town, possible lack of interest and co-operation from many. The support both in sponsorship and practical assistance received from the local community has really paid dividends to the benefit of all. The liaison between Ennis Tidy Towns and Ennis U.D.C. has led to a very high standard, which doubtless would not have been possible, if each had been working separately.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Ennis is a town with a very long historic past resulting in many buildings of many ages. To day the town comprises a tight core with its medieval pattern of small streets, surrounded by modern housing and industrial developments of more recent years. These, both old and new, are in good state and are being well maintained and most attractively painted. There are a number of very fine shop fronts, including, J. Maurer, Carrs, Acorn Electric to name but a few. Quite a feature is the number of sculptures throughout the town. Congratulations to the Business Community for the support and involvement with the process of making Ennis such an enjoyable visit. The Clare County Museum is a credit to all concerned. The new Civic Offices for Ennis U.D.C. is a good stone design with interesting details. The De Valera Library is a quiet enclave in the middle of bustling activity. There appears to have been much success in the U.D.C.'s pursuit of owners of Derelict Sites and Buildings. The New Millennium Fountain provides a sparkle of light and sound that is needed at such a busy roundabout. The Points of Pride plaques are also a very worthwhile addition. The recent up grading of the pedestrian areas is one of the more simple and effective schemes that has been seen in the country.

LANDSCAPING

The floral displays make the town very colourful and vibrant. The River Walk and its delightful fountain is only one of a wide range of amenities creating greater environmental awareness of this important feature. It was noted that many trees have been planted and that it is planned to plant more by residents associations during National Tree Week.

There are some areas where trees have been broken and need replacement. This is an important task as the broken ones only encourage the vandal to damage more. There is a balanced approach to the use of hanging baskets and flowers, though it must be stated that the floral displays at all the roundabouts was magnificent.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There is a very nice balance between the countryside and the urban setting within the town. It was great to see the cows grazing across the river from the town car park in a fine green field; this gives an unexpected pastoral impression. The Environmental Partnership Project will create awareness so that flora and fauna environment is protected and will stimulate an appreciation of the necessity for more sustainable behaviour.

LITTER CONTROL

You are to be highly congratulated on incorporating the facilities of your Information Age Town (i.e. C.C.T.V.) into the town and successfully dealing with certain aspects of littering. It was interesting to talk to many of the younger generation who seem to now have the habit of using the litter bins and talk frankly about the change in attitude. Your scheme to use Clare FM and many other aspects of the media to advertise and educate as many people as possible on litter control is to be very highly commended.

TIDINESS

The campaign against litter reflects on the success of the Tidiness aspect. The town is extremely tidy, but it was interesting to read that 98 abandoned cars were removed during 2000. This gives an indication of the importance of constant vigilance in these matters.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential areas are extremely pleasant with the housing being well maintained and pleasantly painted. There is the need to have the new owners in the residential schemes incorporated into the Tidy Town movement as soon as they move in (i.e. at Bruach na h-Abháinn). This will kick-start a community process from the beginning in many of the newer estates being completed at present.

ROADS, STREET AND BACK AREAS

Traffic flow and its control are excellent. Parking areas have been clearly marked. Roundabouts are well conceived and easy to manage. There is a very strong theme to the finish of all the road works. The Adjudicators look forward to the implementation of the Council's extensive road works program.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ennis is a very historic town and this impression is obvious

throughout. It is pleasant to either drive or walk around the town and additionally there are many places where one can stand/sit or just stare. There is an ambience of thinking and a town that is proud of connecting with the Arts. Because of the tremendous effort in this year's presentation the town was visited on three occasions just to see how effective the entry has been. Sunday is perhaps the quietest day and in some ways the best as there was no distraction and yet a very comfortable visit. It is a town for people and those who use the centre are extremely lucky with the good husbandry that is taking place.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (29/07/01)

Ennis seems to be establishing a fine tradition of public art, to judge from the wealth of attractive modern sculptures throughout the town. It is always pleasing to note that permanency is being considered in relation to improvements and presentation of streetscapes. The medieval laneways of the town were well maintained and the adjudicator admired the attractive "Name Slabs" set in the paving to draw one's attention at the entrances to these. The limestone slabs throughout the pavements of the town are a fine asset to the town's future. The abundant hanging baskets on O'Connell Street were admired and the monument in its prominent position was well maintained. On a negative note some litter was noted to the main streets of the town and a weedy site looked unfortunate behind a hoarding in the vicinity of the market area.