

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **TULLA**  
County : **CLARE**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	27	25
Tidiness	20	14	15
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>185</b>

## **Tulla, Co. Clare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Tulla is representative of a similar grouping of towns in Co. Clare where the traditional village pattern began on top of a hill. This is not a usual urban model and provides very special opportunities and distinctive urban spaces. The urban spaces of this town are quite exceptional and they require the attention that is deserved from such spaces. Thus it is disappointing not to see an overall development approach that is presented in a document. This is now a mandatory requirement and must explain what was done during the year and how it will integrate with future actions. The mark for this category will increase with the submission of this item and it is suggested that it is an immediate task.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The main street has a curved plan, which is an important consideration in the presentation of shop front elevations and general appearance of the terraces. The conversion of an existing limestone building to the new library is very well handled (though the back of computer consoles does not give a very appealing entrance character. The new buildings in the main street are following traditional elevation, which must be complemented, as they will be harmony with the rest of the terraces. There is a need for a good general clean up to the whole streetscape and this can only be achieved through gaining consent with all landowners- thus the development plan can assist in this approach. The National School is well presented and has an interesting planting scheme in front, which will soften the school image. The secondary school is a fine collection of buildings and is well maintained. The new church has a strong design of traditional format but really needs the charm of the older pre-famine churches where a landscape setting has been allowed to develop around it. There is a leadership opportunity for the Local Authority to release the current limestone buildings opposite the National School (that are used as a storage area) and they should seek for the re-use of this structure as a house or community building. The general approach to PVC is that it is not encouraged for replacement windows in heritage or old structures. There should be a concern raised on this issue, as there seems to be a lot of this type of window system going into the older buildings and this is altering the character of the buildings.

### **LANDSCAPING**

There is some landscaping around the town but not to the extent of other towns. This means that an approach to landscaping is quite strategic and where it happens it is very well maintained and has quite a good impact. The placement of the new plaque stone beside the library needs

to be reconsidered as the low flower display is in conflict with the presentation of the plaque detail. Perhaps the stone should be raised, as the colour afforded by the flowers is needed at this location. The graveyard is well presented but the lead in road is very poor and the turn about circle needs to be more robust. In general there is a contrast between the spaces that have landscape and areas where there is potential for further works. The need to plant some more street trees would seem to be necessary as a long-term commitment by the committee.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The example of the native plantings in the National Scholl is an excellent example of what can be done when wildlife is integrated with projects. The weeds were not seen as degrading the plantings and demonstrate that a natural balance can work for the development of such spaces. There is a need to develop this section further.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

This element of the competition is very well handled and no litter was noticed in the town. The recycling area is very clean and it is presumed that the facility is used because there is such good access to it.

## **TIDINESS**

The town has a neat and tidy appearance, which is well presented, but there is some dereliction that needs to be addressed so that the streetscape does not get run down. An aspect of tidiness is the whole interpretation of how the village is presented and this should be tackled in the development report with emphasise on colour selection for the houses. The street beside the Church is very tidy however there is a need to establish a more comprehensive presentation of the main street.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

This element is intimately tied up with the urban area and should be expressed so as to add diversity to the streetscape. There are many ways that the street can be personalised and the residents do seem to be successfully handling this with flower tubs and window boxes such as above the Secret Garden. Some of these displays are very good and such a theme should be expanded on. The new housing areas are all very well tended as are the terraced housing opposite the National School (though it would be nice to see some trees dividing the housing from the street environment). The new owners of the residential development opposite the secondary school should be encouraged to join into the Tidy Towns so that the numbers in the committee can be increased.

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

All roads are in very good state of repair with perhaps the

entry lane to the graveyard being the only area needing some representation to the Local Authority. Many of the road markings are in very good condition and this is important as it retains a tidy appearance. Again the Tidy Town Committee has a role in ensuring that the Local Authority is informed when there is wear and tear of these aspects. Car parking in the town is not resolved very well and in many cases the cars are up on the pavements. This destroys the surfaces and leads to a poor image of the street. It is a concern in this town because so many people live within the urban area.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The town was well worth the visit as it is really something special. There would seem to be a dedicated group involved with the town and they must increase the membership so that proper representation can be made to ensure that the momentum for new works is maintained.