

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SILVERMINES**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	36
The Built Environment	40	30	31
Landscaping	40	38	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	30
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	239	236

Silvermines, Tipperary North

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The good work undertaken in the village to date is very much in evidence from when one enters the village of Silvermines. The documentation (including three year development plan); notes on work undertaken in 2000 and two maps was very concise and helpful to the Adjudicator. Silvermines is a village which is quite spread out, and the nine person Committee have a large task in ensuring that development is equally diversified. Your three year development plan is obviously well thought out, practicable and the aims expressed therein should be achievable. You are wise in identifying the need to involve others such as a Residents Committee and a Junior Committee to assist with your endeavours.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church, which dominates the village, is very well presented. However, the actual streetscape needs a fresh approach. Attention was drawn to an unoccupied premises and also to a public house in the name of T. O'Ciarda. The actual lettering here was admired, but there was a large hole in the glass door. Some premises in the street are making an effort, but an overall review is needed. Small actions such as painting the gateway in the archway next to the shop in a vibrant colour would liven up this area. The School is quite well presented but the entrance gates needed painting. Stone walls are good throughout the village, but ivy and brambles are tending to encroach in a number of areas. The two B & B premises on the Nenagh approach road were well presented and the stone advising visitors that Silvermines won a National Landscape award and were also Tiobrad Alainn winners in 1996 is welcome.

LANDSCAPING

The many landscaped areas around the village area credit to those who have worked on them. The day of adjudication was very fine and the viewing area was magnificent with many Counties spread out in a panorama beneath. The area itself was looking well also, with cut grass, picnic tables and litter bins. However, a little more attention to detail would ensure that this viewing point would be one of the best of its kind to be found in Ireland. There were some poles around the site with no purpose, the concrete fencing around the carpark needed to be repaired in a couple of places and the kerbing around the stone islands at the entrance was broken here and there. Other landscaped areas such as the grotto, the ICA planting and, of course Cuain Mhuire were looking well on the day, although the gravel area at Cuain Mhuire needed a little weeding. The development of the new playfield area is

admirable. The planting around the entrance to the walking paths has covered the bare concrete wall to good effect. It was noted that there were a number of people out working around the village – an early start is needed to be ready for a June or early July adjudication. At the water park there was some wire netting (which looked as if it were protection for growing trees) on the ground in front of the seats. Otherwise this area was looking well and was very pleasant. The adjudicator had a preview of your new sculpture, which was being put in place at the time of adjudication. The miner in his “silver” suit is a very appropriate addition to the village with its long heritage in mining.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The road up to the viewing area has been left in a natural state and honeysuckle, gorse, foxgloves, elder flowers, wild roses and ferns were to be enjoyed on the journey. The natural area at the river park no doubt is also appreciated by the wildlife in the area and the nature trail here is to be commended.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter bins were well placed at the viewing area and throughout the village. In the centre of the village there was no evidence of litter but there was a sprinkling on the approach roads, in the river and a considerable amount at the green area behind the second housing estate on the Newport road.

TIDINESS

Most areas were weedfree and tidy. The planting of escalonia around the Council yard on the loop road has hidden this area somewhat. Building is taking place in a number of places throughout the village and no doubt the residents will be encouraged to landscape their premises to a high standard upon completion. The visible yard on the road to the right of the church is still rather untidy with a disused washing machine in evidence and there is another visible rather untidy yard near the village on the Newport approach.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private houses in and around the village are mostly well presented and as mentioned above, no doubt the new residents who are building houses at present will be encouraged to join in your endeavours.

At the first housing estate on the Newport road, there was a show of colour as residents have planted up containers here. The green areas and the maturing trees at the second housing estate give a pleasant aspect. Further houses are now being built here and it would be important that a Residents Committee be formed for the future.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Signage throughout the village is well maintained. However, it was noted that there is a sign for the viewing area near the grotto pointing towards the Church, but when a visitor proceeds up by the Church there is no sign to advise which road to take from there. The road through the first housing estate is extremely rough and the area outside the second housing estate also needs attention.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Very worthwhile work has been undertaken in the Silvermines over the last number of years, and the tree planting alone will leave a legacy for generations to come. Consolidation of this effort is now required, ensuring that what has been put in place to date is maintained to the highest standard. Also, thought and planning must be put in place to find ways to motivate all residents, especially in the core of the village, to continue to develop the Silvermines to its maximum potential.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/08/01)

Silvermines looked beautiful for our second visit and is being considered for the Landscaping Award for the treatment of the new playing field. Some of the problems noted on first adjudication appear to have been rectified before the second visit, however a number of boundary walls to residential properties need upgrading. The sucker growth should be removed from the trees along the Main Street to the church. A number of road signs were in need of cleaning. Well done on wheelchair access to amenity facilities where possible.