

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TEMPLEMORE**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	39
The Built Environment	40	31	29
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	14	15
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	193	189

Templemore, Tipperary North

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The town map and the information provided on the entry form were useful to the adjudicator in identifying the projects and work undertaken since 2000. The projects recorded and located on the map were each noted and are to be commended, especially St Mary's, the Courthouse and the children's play area (and use of natural materials) in the Town Park and Priory Place. Building on achievements of previous years and the proposal in Ann O'Leary's earlier five year plan, the Committee's plans as submitted will greatly enhance the town itself and its future in the Competition. In view of the very bad incidence of littering and profusion of kerbside weeds in Templemore we would suggest that your plans for the future include more definite strategies for the eradication of these problems.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment is indeed varied in terms of public and commercial properties and residential. The Town Hall is the obvious focal point in the town as it is sited in the centre of the Town Square. This building could be better presented as such – the proposed repainting is to be welcomed. The immediate area around it could be less cluttered and we would suggest the re-cycle bins could be better located at some other, albeit central, location and car parking here more regulated in the area (the millennium sculpture, for instance, is almost totally lost. The two Churches (St. Mary's and the Roman Catholic Parish Church) are fine structures and both well maintained and presented. The Garda College complex is an important public property and an unique feature of the town. Other buildings that stand out include the Templemore Arms, the group of commercial properties at the top of the Square (Malone & Co stone buildings, Kinnanes/M. O'Dwyers/the Centra Store and the AIB Bank. The Schools were notably well presented, with a high standard of litter control generally. Commercial/retail premises in the Town Square are so varied in forms of design, appearance and maintenance that serious consideration should be given to a co-ordinated scheme to be drafted to deal with this as a matter of urgency.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping in and around the town is an important feature. The Town Park is central in this regard and is well landscaped with a good variety of species of trees, open spaces, the area around the Pitch and Putt course and the lakeshore. The tree lined Church avenue is a unique feature of the town, with a most impressive view from the Parish Church toward the Garda Training Centre. Hanging flower baskets and the planting at the bottom end of the

Square and on some premises (notably the Hotel) are good but this area is losing noticeably over the past year or so. The reference in the 2000 report to the immediate areas along the boundary walls of the Garda Training Centre should be addressed as a matter of urgency – trees, grassed verges and planting. Noted also was the high standard of landscaping at the Templemore Golf Club.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The wildlife project undertaken at the girls primary school is to be welcomed and teachers and pupils involved are to be encouraged and congratulated – indeed the other schools might come forward with similar projects of their own. The lake and wooded areas with the Town Park are a unique repository of wildlife and as such are to be treasured. The proposed rebuilding of flood damaged walls along the river, hopefully could include a clean-up of the river itself

LITTER CONTROL

Litter is a problem despite the awareness campaigns organised by the Tidy Towns Committee, the UDC, Templemore Lions Club and commercial interest. Whilst more litter bins are needed in the Town Square and streets leading on to it, there is too much litter in many areas around the town itself, in the Park, along Station Road and on major and minor approach roads. Public awareness is really the key. At the time of adjudication, the instances of indiscriminate littering of the area immediately around the Town Hall would suggest that there is more to be done.

TIDINESS

The above comments on litter are apt in the area of general tidiness. However, at individual level, properties are, in the majority, well maintained and neat and tidy (e.g. one example is the Priory Park already mentioned).

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of presentation and maintenance in this section is to be commended with many individuals in the residential area seen to be taking pride in the appearance of their properties – this applies to both private and public residential areas.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

A number of points need to be stressed in this section – approach roads (particularly the major approaches from Thurles, Roscrea, Templetuohy and Borrisoleigh) should be looked at more carefully and the standard improved. Road and other directional signs - too many are dirty, broken and in some case illegible. However, the well designed welcome signs sponsored by the Lions Club are to be commended. There should be serious consideration given to introducing a comprehensive and co-ordinated street name programme for the town.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

That a concerted effort is being made by the Tidy Towns Committee and the supporting organisations is obvious, but a stronger partnership between these bodies and the public at large is needed. There were a number of occasions during the adjudication that sadly suggested that others are frustrating the work of those making the effort.