

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	38
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	34	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	224	219

TULLOW, CO. CARLOW

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

The application form details and map were very helpful. The "Tullow Tidy Towns Taking care of Our Town" presentation and plan is a very comprehensive document and covers all aspects of the development of Tullow in a very methodical way. The number of achieved items is very encouraging and the overall state of the towns reflects the hard work the committee has done. The committee of 15 is a good number and by cooperation with the various bodies a great amount of progress is and will be made.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The schools, churches, courthouse and bridge and museum are all fine buildings and are well tended. Many commercial properties have a high standard of presentation. there are still a number that require upgrading and decoration. Unoccupied buildings are always a major source of difficulty and hopefully some of these issues will be resolved. The screening of areas on the inner relief road is a very good achievement and the efforts at Hawkins Lane are important. The work done for the Tullow town renewal Scheme plan will continue to be a valuable source of information. The importance of retaining the character of the town with its many narrow streets and laneways is important. The Thomas Trayer and Fr. Murphy monuments are well tended and form focal points. The 1798 monument is unique, combining stone, tree planting and pathways. The convent buildings by the church and the school at the Shillelagh Road are well treated. Some of the business premises on the Castledermot road require attention to orderliness and screening.

LANDSCAPING

There are many fine landscape features in Tullow. The roadside grassed area at the inner relief road by the recycle bins is very attractive and the simple formula of good grass and trees is most effective. The shrub border is also attractive at this point. The Hillbrook estate is particularly well landscaped and the board walk, water feature and well tended trees, shrubs and grass make a lovely sight. The planting by the Fire Station with pleasant stone wall frontage is attractive. Landscaping around the Thomas Traynor memorial is very pleasant. The containers on the bridge give a nice impression. Plantings around the Catholic Church and community centre and convent are well done. The landscaping at the Pairc Mhuire housing estate is especially of note for the standard and maintenance present. Hawthorn Drive has a lovely green aspect and is very well cared for. The grounds of the Chesire Home also contributes to the landscape of the area.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The riverside offers very good potential for wildlife observation and the more access to the riverbanks the better in this respect. Work in progress currently on the river park on the Castledermot road will prove very valuable. The marsh at Hillbrook with boardwalk is a unique feature, very innovative and helpful in the interest of wildlife.

LITTER CONTROL

There is a good general level of litter control, however litter was noted in places and disappointingly in and among the trees and paths in the 1798 monument area.

TIDINESS

There is a good improvement under this heading. Derelict sites, closed buildings, unfinished building work and new road passages all hamper the tidiness aspect. The display of shop materials on footpaths is unhelpful too. Some business premises by their nature - where stores of materials are stored in yards and open spaces need to find a way to screen these items especially when they are occupying prime roadside sites.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is an exceptional standard of housing estate care and maintenance in Tullow. Many of the estates were visited and commented upon under the heading of landscape above. The upkeep of houses and gardens is of a very good standard and there is a good pride obvious in the property ownership.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There are a vast number of back ways and small streets. As the new roads open up - many areas - such as the backs of buildings become revealed and these are often not the most attractive. Screening and consideration of ways to relieve this have to be sought. The timber screening on at the area at the inner relief road is a good example.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Tullow has made great strides with the developments. From the presentation submitted with the application it is obvious that the committee are very aware of the challenges and the solutions needed and with the enthusiasm that has been evident so far there is good reason for optimism for the future development of Tullow.