

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	48	48
The Built Environment	40	36	36
Landscaping	40	38	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	24
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	31
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>257</b>

## ENNIS, CO. CLARE

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Your submission can only be described as overwhelming and not a little exhaustive to get through. This submission encompasses a complete spectrum of Tidy Towns activity and is quite a classic. Your ability to plan in such detail, and to execute with such fullness reflects a comprehensive effort from all sections of the community. Your submission has been examined in detail and compared to the work on the ground over a two day period. Your efforts over the past five years in particular have been substantial and sustained and the town is now a Tidy Towns entry of unique quality. The amount of work and workers in evidence during the adjudication period leaves you with a town full of surprises. There is an air of "all hands on deck" as you grapple with a town busy from commerce, tourism, and heavy traffic. And yet your estates in particular are tranquil and your many small, well landscaped car parks project an image of great discipline.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

You are endowed with a host of historic and aesthetically attractive buildings. You are further endowed with a most beautiful river flowing through the town and offering great scope for riverbank activity. Your planners have done well in coping with the tremendous amount of new developments in recent years. Your treatment of the town's many narrow streets in calming traffic is commendable. Public buildings, churches, abbeys, national monuments, schools, hotels, museums, Glór, Fire Station, Library, New Civic Office, Shannon Development Office, Courthouse and many others have been presented to a high standard and reflect great credit on all concerned. Planners have ensured that the medieval buildings of the town are protected and given scope to stand out. Ennis Abbey in particular, though in a ruined state, is excellently presented at this important site. The many attractive shop fronts mentioned down the years are a valuable part of early 20th century Ennis. New shop fronts are well presented and give respect to their elder neighbours. We shall miss the colour and animation of James Brogan from this part of High Street.

### **LANDSCAPING**

This is now your strong point and the new additions of high colour, especially on the approach roads have helped to raise your marks further. No doubt the influence of the Entene Florale Competition has spurred you to this degree of excellence. The numerous rich, well developed flower beds on almost every approach road sets the scene for a town of high colour and high class landscaping. Your treatment of tree planting and shrubbery in the various car parks is excellent. The great display of well spread sculpture is probably unique to Ennis, reflecting an active liaison with numerous artists and artisans. Your success with so many residents and your local competition ensures a permeation of Tidy Towns activity to all age groups and residential areas. You have reduced the number of hanging baskets at the river bridges - is this by design? The high display of flowers near the 1916 memorial is matched by a number of others around the town and they are quite visible to the passing motorist.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

You have used the river to good effect. Some of your wildlife is now a tourist attraction as visitors and locals were observed feeding the Fergus based wildlife. You have matched your river bank development with attractive illustrated display boards in the car parks. These are educational and entertaining. Your involvement with the wildlife specialists is praiseworthy.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Over two days of adjudication, the amount of litter on the streets was really negligible. The only disappointment was in the side entrance of An Post. Despite the presence of a litter skip, some litter could be seen at the 'staff only' entrance. During the Monday, numerous cleaning personnel were seen sweeping and collecting litter. Also impressive was the litter free approach roads, suggesting that your litter control policy extends to all areas of the town.

## **TIDINESS**

Ennis was truly a tidy town during adjudication period. Your tidiness was put to the test in the scouting of many side entrances and the many narrow lanes that have undergone commercial development in recent years. Indeed, your numerous back and side areas have been developed to a high standard.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The building boom continues in and around Ennis. The many new housing estates have been well developed and for the most part estates are finished to a high degree. Of great help to the adjudicator was the excellent standard of signage - extending to new housing developments. It is obvious that your local competition is having a positive effect on new estates and offers you an opportunity to recruit new and additional members.

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

The road structure in and around the town is excellent. The linking roundabouts, coupled with effective signage, combine to keep the traffic well disciplined. The many small and well dispersed car parks offer a valuable though necessary facility. Walking through the town is now a pleasure and the many shortcuts facilitating the visitor is of great help and offers an insight into the historic Ennis.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Though the weather has not been kind to many landscaping projects in the town this year, it was, nevertheless, a blaze of colour. As mentioned earlier the approach roads set the scene for a town of great interest and presentation. The commercial and tourism life of Ennis is certainly being enhanced by the environmental support that is abundant throughout the town. There is a sense of caring about the town and there was no evidence of graffiti or vandalism. While traffic,

especially in evening time, is heavy, the town is coping well. The hand of the statutory bodies is very much in evidence, but so too is the hand of the commercial, cultural and voluntary organisations all combining to present Ennis to such a high and appealing standard. Congratulations.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (04/08/02)**

A volume could certainly be written on the massive improvements to the visual and environmental quality of Ennis during this adjudicator's lifetime. Such a book would probably fail to complement the seven well-researched and comprehensive volumes supplied this year by the Tidy Towns Committee. However, instead of a further volume, here are a few sentences endorsing the first adjudicator's favourable comments and adding a few critical remarks. Unfortunately litter control was less satisfactory at the time of second adjudication. This was during the busy August weekend when additional visitors may be anticipated. (Litter was conspicuous in the neighbourhood of Chapel Lane, O'Connell Square, the area between the Queen's Hotel and the Museum, and in Considine Terrace and adjoining streets). The only truly black spot in the town centre, perhaps merely a grey spot, were the two premises flanking Moore's smart frontage near Lysaght's Lane. Otherwise, Ennis was a real pleasure to visit, though the absence of a major road by-pass does militate against the full enjoyment of the town centre and its encircling streets. The superb floral decorations, effective everywhere, seemed especially so in alleys and courts. It is hoped that the Entente Florale will have a perennially positive effect.