

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 27-06-2002

|                                | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2002 | Mark Awarded 2001 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50           | 40                | 39                |
| The Built Environment          | 40           | 29                | 30                |
| Landscaping                    | 40           | 40                | 38                |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30           | 25                | 25                |
| Litter Control                 | 40           | 32                | 31                |
| Tidiness                       | 20           | 15                | 16                |
| Residential Areas              | 30           | 24                | 23                |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 40           | 29                | 29                |
| General Impression             | 10           | 8                 | 8                 |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>300</b>   | <b>242</b>        | <b>239</b>        |

## **Silvermines, Tipperary (NR)**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for maps, photographs, entry form and the very useful one page programme of work as set out for 2002. The receipt of this documentation gives the adjudicator a good overview of the work of the Silvermines and District Development Association, which is considerable.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The tree lined main street leading up to the Church, which is the focal point of the village, is quite unique and looks well from afar. However, on closer inspection, the problems of last year, which consist of a hole in the glass door of one premises and metal gates which need to be painted, come into focus. In the scheme of the work which you have planned and implemented throughout the village, these are small points, but in order to progress to the top of the Tidy Towns competition (and every year you are getting closer) these items must be addressed. The Church and surrounds were very well presented and also the School and the two Bed and Breakfast establishments in the town. Aras Odran on the Limerick road was neat and tidy but the green galvanised fence opposite the entrance to one of the housing estates on this road could do with repainting.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The great achievement in the village this year is, of course, the Mining Sculpture and the adjacent paved and landscaped area. The use of the indigenous stone work to hold the information plaque was inspired. This whole area, with the seating and display map, is a very worthwhile feature in the village. The panoramic view of the countryside at the viewing point was admired but little items, such as mending the kerbstones and removing the unwanted poles have not been addressed. The water feature and the entrance to the nature trail was very neat, tidy and attractive. Cuan Mhuir continues to be a place of great peace and it was good to see the gateposts being painted during adjudication. The maturing trees on the Dublin road looked well and further out, the archway of older trees highlight a legacy left by those who planted these in the past. In other areas the maturing planting around the playing fields, and the fact that brambles and ivy have been removed from stone walls, was noted.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The wildlife trail traversing the Silvermines river from the footbridge area is to be commended and also the fact that this is maintained by the community. Other planting throughout the village contributes in this category.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

There was virtually no litter to be seen throughout the village and the recycle bins adjacent to the school were clean and well maintained.

## **TIDINESS**

There were very few kerbside weeds to be seen and the village was mostly neat and tidy, except for a couple of poor back areas which have been previously mentioned in reports.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Most houses, including those in the housing estates, are assisting the tidy towns effort in a positive way. In fact, some houses and gardens are exceptional. More new houses are in the process of being built in the Silvermines and, no doubt, the new residents will be encouraged to join in your endeavours.

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

Most roads were quite well surfaced with some rough areas needing attention. The new sign in the viewing area situated near the Church was noted. The couple of rather poor back areas were already mentioned in regard to tidiness. Approach roads were mostly well trimmed, taking the bad weather coming up to adjudication into account. Signage was quite good throughout, but all "Yield" signs needed attention.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

While the village continues to progress under the guidance of the hard working Development Association, attention to detail must now be a priority. All the developments and landscaping put in place must be maintained to the highest standard possible. It is unfortunate that your FAS scheme ended in April which is going to make this task even more difficult. However, we have no doubt that you will endeavour to find solutions and look forward to see you progressing future in the Competition in the years ahead.

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

There are a large number of new houses along the approach roads to Silvermines. The new Miner's Monument looked quite charming and unusual. The church in its dramatic position, terminating the axis of Main Street looked as well as ever. Litter control was generally very good, although the odd paper was spotted. A number of rusty gateways were still in evidence along Main Street, although the broken glass door appeared to have been repaired since the first adjudication. There are one or two gutters along the main street which sport unattractive weed growth. Do ensure that render is not removed from the façades of traditional vernacular buildings. This is incorrect from a conservation point of view and will lead to practical problems regarding water penetration etc. Graffiti

was spotted on the map at the Viewing Point. The entrance to the nature trail was extremely well maintained and generally the town was presented to a high standard on second adjudication day.