

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **THURLES**  
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**  
Category : **E**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	--
The Built Environment	40	30	--
Landscaping	40	30	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	--
Litter Control	40	25	--
Tidiness	20	14	--
Residential Areas	30	23	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	--
General Impression	10	7	--
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>--</b>

## **Thurles, County Tipperary**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the completed entry form and the detailed map of the town, which provided great support to the adjudicator when trying to identify areas under consideration. Back in 2000, when Thurles was last adjudicated, the adjudicator made reference to the need for a work plan, which a town of the size of Thurles needs. Give consideration to drawing up a plan prior to next years competition. Again the entry did not state how many members were in the Committee or if had any interactive relation ship with either the Town Council or other related agencies. On the positive side it is good to see so many active residents associations operating within the town.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Thurles is a town that has some very impressive buildings both public and private and the standard of presentation of premises and indeed shop fronts was quite good. I notice that the committee has made reference to the compilation of a derelict site survey, this is a worthwhile document, as it will identify owners of said properties. It would be hope that influence could be brought to bear on such owners to try and make improvements to the offending properties. That being said Thurles problems with dereliction are not as great as some other similar sized towns but none the less the overall problem still needs to be tackled in a strategic manner. The number of plastic signs has further decreased to be replaced by some very attractive lettered signs; this is a very welcome development.

The public and religious buildings most notably the stately Cathedral are all in very good condition

The following deserve mention for preserving what could be called the original town type shop front: Paddy Doyle Barber on Kickham Street and his competitor Pats Barbers Shop off Cathedral Street, P J Broderick Auctioneers, Scanlons Nuacthanai bilingual contribution, Griffins Newsagents in Liberty Square, Computer Centre and McKeons Shoe Shop on Friar Street. Dwans Brewhouse is also a very attractive stone building with a very pleasant bar restaurant, too early in day to sample local stout!

The front of Semple Stadium on the Old Stand side has been repainted and looks much better than in previous years. The advent TRBI and the new Shannon Development Technology Park have added to the infrastructure on the outskirts of the town. All in the entire town has improved immeasurably since this adjudicator visited it in an official capacity some years back. It is hard to judge Thurles on a Munster Hurling Championship day.

## **LANDSCAPING**

This is a category that Thurles has done well in over the years and this year is no exception. There was a good mix of landscape and planting arrangements both within the core of the town, in the residential areas of which there are many and indeed on the approach roads into Thurles. Trees are one of the most important plants in an urban landscape such as Thurles is well served in this sense, trees are maintained to a high standard and have not been subjected to any undue vandalism.

The planting initiatives undertaken at a number of housing developments were also very well maintained with very few overgrown or disrupted. Cathedral Street at the junction of Mitchell and Kickham Street had a very nice arrangement and individual planting schemes such as the one at Sli Na Siure are also very effective and attractive. Pheasant Island had a nice planting arrangement complementing the bird sanctuary, but it is not easily accessed.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

There has been very little development in this category over the last few years and the Committee should consider trying to initiate a project in conjunction with the local schools and indeed the local council environmental officer. The Anner River is central to the town and there are many points that can be accessed for such a project.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Thurles has always realised that this whole litter control issue could be very problematic for the Town given that it is a major sporting fixture centre for most Sundays and indeed weekends each summer. The Committee in conjunction with the local council has shown good foresight in putting in place excellent litter control programmes.

With exception of Semple Stadium entrance by far in a way the biggest offender and few other minor offenders, the town had very little litter on the day of adjudication. Keep up the good work!

## **TIDINESS**

The whole town core was quite tidy and this was also the case in outlying areas. Except for the condition of a number of speed and directional signs the overall standard was quite good.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The town has a myriad of housing developments both local authority and private. Quite a number have been developed in the intervening two years since this adjudicator last visited Thurles. It would take an inordinate amount of time to assess in great detail the areas from Kennedy and Collins Park to Cabragh Court, Monadree, Inisfallen Avenue, Sean Treacy

Park right out to Willow Park and Willomer Drive.

All these places mentioned and others were visited but a general comment will have to be applied. Each area had its very strong points such as good accessibility and the condition of communal green areas one or two had a few negatives such as untidy boundary walls and messy back areas. Overall credit is due to residents who are making great efforts to show the best side of their respective developments.

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

The standard this year was quite good and all approach roads were in an acceptable condition with a few bad points that could be improved upon. The Moyne Road has an excellent new surface, edges are cut back well but it has a number of untidy galvanised sheds that are very prominent as one drives in near the water tower. The Templemore approach is excellently served by prudent planting and nice green verges but again the continuous concrete fencing is broken in some places and is in need of painting.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Thurles is an attractive large rural town with a long time association with the GAA. That brings its own problems with large crowds converging regularly during summer weekends adding to the litter problems and untidiness in general. These are problems that are outside the remit of any committee and indeed the said committee has operated well in trying to flag these problems with the relevant authorities. The town has improved on its performance of a few years back and will make further progress if there is more interaction between committee and bodies such as the Town Council and Chamber of Commerce.

Again, keep up the good work!