

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CAHIR**
County : **TIPPERARY SOUTH**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-08-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	210	207

Cahir, County Tipperary

OVERAL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you indeed for the information submitted with the entry form and for the map which was most useful on adjudication day. It is gratifying indeed to see from your Organisational Structure the amount of involvement and interest in the preservation of the environment of the town. On the other hand it is disappointing to read your comment regarding “ the decreasing interest in Tidy Towns” which, it can only be assumed, means that the voluntary effort is subsiding and that, in the main, the work is carried out by your Local Authority and Fás. Last year you received an in-depth report from the Adjudicator and your comments, in this respect, are very much appreciated. It has been some time since this years Adjudicator visited Cahir in this capacity. Many of the problems highlighted in last years report are still with you. Therefore the following is by way of comment and should be read in tandem with last years report.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Castle and Bridge, the two Churches, the Adult Education Centre, the National School, the College, the Granary Mills, Garda Station and Post Office all looked very well again this year and are being very well maintained. The old Abbey is being well preserved but unfortunately the area surrounding it is somewhat untidy and littered. Business premises are also being well maintained but comments made in last years report regarding décor style and shop frontages are still applicable. It is noted that “Local Businesses” are involved in your Committee. Is it possible that they could come to grips with such problems as décor and signage – even on one street - which could set a headline for other parts of the town. This could be done perhaps with the assistance of a local architect for a nominal fee. The work which has been achieved in Kilkenny City in this respect over many years is a classic example of what can be done when the momentum is established.

LANDSCAPING

Trees, shrubs and flowers planted in the past are now reaching maturity and give the town a very nice appearance. Landscaping – either private or public – on approach roads looks well. In particular the landscaping in the Castle grounds, in the areas of the riverside walks and the walk to Swiss Cottage are delightful. Your comments regarding the wild flower meadow at the Castle Inch are noted and the site was visited on adjudication day. Part of your future planning should be the identification of further possible landscaping sites which could be planted with trees and shrubs which would give colour on an all-year-round basis. In this respect mention was made last year on the commissioning of a Tree Planting Strategy Report. This does not appear to have been included in your submission this year. If it has not yet come to fruition the Adjudicator, in the event, would be glad to see sight of it next year. The statue of the piper and its surrounds in the Square is very attractive. The flower beds at the

monument near the car park are a wonderful display and add greatly to the whole presentation in that area.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Other than the Wild flower Meadow there does not appear to be any further activity under this heading. The river area in Cahir would be an ideal site for a wild bird colony such as swans or ducks and indeed the Castle Inch would be most suitable for feeding tables and nesting boxes which would have the additional effect of attracting other types of wild birds. However, in the event, please do consult with Duchas. Similar projects have been undertaken at Ardfinnan and Marlfield and would be worth a visit.

LITTER CONTROL

The centre of Cahir was practically litter free on adjudication day. Congratulations to all concerned. There was however some litter to be seen in the car park at the Castle and also as mentioned above, on the road to the old Abbey. This is an important aspect of the competition and needs regular monitoring.

TIDINESS

In general the town was presented in a neat and tidy manner but some of the comments made in last years report are still applicable.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The presentation of housing estates and individual houses is a major plank in your Tidy Towns effort. Cahir has numerous housing estates and as many as possible were visited on adjudication day. In the vast majority of cases, houses are being well maintained as are their gardens which were in full bloom and a joy to see. In some cases open spaces needed cutting. It is noted that Residents Associations are part of your Committee. If you do not already do so you should consider having a competition amongst these Associations for the best kept estate. This has been very successful in other centres and has created an air of friendly rivalry all through the benefit of the Tidy Towns effort. Individual houses are being very well maintained. Lovely gardens are in evidence everywhere, which create a great ambiance in the town. Well done to all concerned.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces and pathways are in very good condition and are being well maintained. In this respect great credit is due to your Local Authority. Approach roads are being reasonably well kept and, in some cases, showed evidence of cutting. The surroundings of various factories and depots on the outskirts of the town are being well kept. The condition of approach roads and the buildings thereon are important as they tend to set the tone for the rest of the town.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Cahir is a busy vibrant town which suffers from the huge amount of traffic passing through it. Nevertheless it has many fine old buildings and houses and has the potential to do well in the Competition. Your Working Plan makes interesting reading but is more a list to be done than a plan.

When doing such a plan Tidy Towns Committees are encouraged to set out on a year-to year basis projects which they can realistically achieve in that year within their physical and financial resources. Such a plan need not be elaborate and can be done in conjunction with your Local Authority, Fás and other elements of your Committee. In the event please send a copy of any revised plan with your entry form next year so that the Adjudicator can have sight of it. In the meantime – don't despair. Very good work is being done and is bound to have an effect in arousing further interest in your efforts.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (01/08/02)

Cahir continues to edge ahead in its efforts. Heavy traffic and the need for upgrading of premises, surfaces and litter control are the prominent factors for future enhancement. The Castle grounds are a great asset and the manner in which they have been allowed to demonstrate their own natural style with both mown and surfaced paths is commendable. The Mall Walk is particularly attractive and it is very desirable to be able to get from one part of the town to another without having to walk by the streets heavily trodden with traffic and the resulting fumes. An improvement of the surface by the riverside behind the Craft Granary would be welcome. The litter situation appears to be a little less at second adjudication than reported above. The Adult Education Centre and Post Office were noted. Imaginative plantings at the castle carpark were admired.