

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLONMEL**
County : **TIPPERARY SOUTH**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-08-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	231	225

Clonmel, County Tipperary

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you indeed for all the information sent with the entry form and the map which was most useful on adjudication day. A substantial amount of commercial and private building is taking place in Clonmel together with work being carried out on public buildings. Because of this it is suggested that, with a view to identifying any environmental problems which may arise as a result of all this activity, you produce a 3/5 year plan for the purpose of identifying what further projects your committee can undertake on a year to year basis within their physical and financial resources. This need not be elaborate or expensive and could be done in conjunction with your existing partners i.e. your County Council, Borough Council, Chamber of Commerce, Horticultural Society, Wild Life Committee, Residence Associations, ESB etc. Indeed it is gratifying to read that you have the full support of these organisations for your efforts. You received an in-depth report from the adjudicator last year. The following therefore is by way of comment on further progress this year and should be read in tandem with last year's report.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Work on the Main Guard is ongoing and will undoubtedly be very impressive when completed. West Gate and St Mary's Church were well presented as indeed were your public buildings including your Churches, Schools, County Council Offices, Swimming Pool, Library, Museum, Garda Station and Town Hall, all of which were visited on adjudication day. As last year, a very high standard is being maintained by commercial premises throughout the town. Others however could do with refurbishment, a matter which you might discuss with your Chamber of Commerce. The Quay area is being well maintained but unfortunately was somewhat littered. The bilingual finger post signposting throughout the town creates a nice atmosphere and information notice boards are also a very valuable addition. As mentioned in last's year report some dereliction still exists but hopefully this will be solved in time.

LANDSCAPING

The Richard Mulcahy Park looked in pristine condition on adjudication day and, together with the landscaping which has and is taking place on the Waterford Road creates a very good impression entering the town. Clonmel is benefiting from the planting of previous years which has now come into maturity and creates a wonderful ambience throughout the town. Street containers, hanging baskets and window boxes, where presented, looked lovely as did beds of flowers and the landscaping of roundabouts. The "Slan" roundabout on the Cahir Road is exceptional as indeed is the floral display at the Town Hall. Landscaping along the Quay is also very impressive. The new project at the Old Railway Bridge was visited but was not planted on the day. There was, however, every indication that this would take place shortly. As part of your planning do

introduce into your trees and shrubs selection those that would give you some colour on an all-year-round basis.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The wilderness Gorge is, indeed, a wonderful addition to the infrastructure of Clonmel. While comments made in last years report are still applicable the whole area is being well maintained and is ideal for the attraction of wildlife. Congratulations to all concerned. The Lady Blessington's Bath was also visited and looked well on adjudication day. Unfortunately there was some element of littering and graffiti on the River Suir sign. This too would be a wonderful area for the development of a wildlife project. Perhaps the provision of feeding tables and nesting boxes might have the desired effect as indeed would the introduction of ducks and other wild birds. Seek advise from your Clonmel Wildlife Committee on this.

LITTER CONTROL

The centre of Clonmel was practically litter free on adjudication day. Congratulations are indeed due to all concerned. Unfortunately, however, some outlying areas did not escape. There was some littering to be seen on the Quayside, on the Cahir road, at Wilderness Gorge (to a minor extent), on a number of side streets and, to a large extent, at the Press 2000 Café near the railway bridge. This is an important aspect of the competition and needs constant monitoring. Your Tidy Towns Request Card is a wonderful idea and could be well copied by other centres throughout the country.

TIDINESS

The town of Clonmel is a very substantial one but yet was presented in a neat and tidy manner. Recycling facilities were observed and will be a great addition to your efforts. Your whole effort on tidiness is commendable, particularly your commercial premises, who obviously see the benefits of such actions and are to be complimented on the way that the streets and the back street have been presented.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many housing estates were visited on adjudication day. It was not possible to visit them all – they are very numerous. Houses in general are being very well maintained. Some had lovely gardens which were in full bloom and created a lovely atmosphere. It is indeed a great benefit to have Residents Associations on your Committee and the garden competition run by the Horticultural Society is a wonderful idea. If you do not already do so, perhaps a similar competition could be organised for housing estates. This type of competition has been found to be very beneficial in many other centres. Housing and apartments in the Quayside area are also being well maintained and fit in well with the overall appearance of the town.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads looked well and, as already mentioned, landscaping on these roads is now maturing nicely. Perhaps some further landscaping could be carried out on some of the roundabouts on the relief road. Road surfaces and pathways are being well maintained and, in this connection, great credit is due to your County and Borough Councils. In general the many back streets and areas in Clonmel are being well maintained.

In some cases road surfaces need attention. Your pedestrianised areas are a wonderful addition to the overall atmosphere of Clonmel and appear to be much appreciated by residents and visitors alike.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Clonmel gives the impression of being a very progressive town and one which both commercial interests and residents place great emphasis on their environment. The town is also endowed with many fine public buildings and a wonderful river, all of which combined provide a great basis for the attainment of further progress in the competition. Planning and attention to detail is what is required and, in the event, please do enclose a copy of your 3/5 year plan with your entry form next year so that the Adjudicator can have sight of it. In the meantime keep up the good work.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (01/08/02)

The material submitted with the application form was most helpful in understanding the developments in Clonmel and their appreciation. Considerable development has been taking place in the commercial and residential areas. The Government Offices by the quayside occupying refurbished old buildings are very commendable. More of this idea would be welcome to retain building character within the town – the old building opposite the Franciscan Friary offers such an opportunity for instance. It is good to see that off-street parking areas are present to deal with the huge amount of traffic. The many floral features throughout the town are striking despite the bad summer. Floral features of Geraniums in particular, were looking well and the planters attached to the quayside railings are very effective. The roundabouts on the relief road are calling for imaginative planting schemes as is the Tipperary Institute grounds and the spaces by the Library and the islands in the carpark near the College Street entrance. The Richard Mulcahy Park is a marvellous asset and well utilised. A number of trees have failed there and a continual replanting programme is needed to ensure continuity of the concept of the park. The riverside walks present a great asset in the town together with the mature trees on the opposite bank. The grotto surrounds across the river calls for a more imaginative landscape approach than exists now. Litter around the grassed areas by Lady Blessingtons Bath was noted also an accumulation of litter in the water below the small bridge near West Ward (or Suir Ward).