

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **EMLY**
County : **TIPPERARY SOUTH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-08-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	35
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	35	31
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	25	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	243	233

Emly, County Tipperary

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It was a joy and a pleasure to visit Emly. The extensive works undertaken by the entire community have again ensured you have made great strides in the Competition. Thank you for the Tidy Towns plan 2002-2005 which sets out clear, attainable objectives. It was apparent, on the day of adjudication that the community is supporting, contributing and participating in these objectives. Thank you also for the splendid photographs supplied and the comprehensively completed entry form. The use of vibrant colours on many commercial premises has been skillfully done – Harley and Byrne's Tavern - using yellow and brown in a pleasing combination - is to be applauded. The village's famous items of antiquity, St. Ailbe's Cross and Well, were very well presented while the Cathedral "Square" was a delight, well laid out with many items of interest and interpretive plaques. The splendid Emigrant People is an arresting display while the welcome to West Tipperary plan and other elements within the Square add interest to this litter free, delightfully presented centrepiece. Individual, small in themselves, elements contributed to an overall delightful vista. The village nameplate – the Little Town of Emly – was a joy while the recently painted house on the side road, closing the view, was meritorious. The presentation of the busy commercial Co-operative Agricultural Society was maintained to a high order. Many volunteers were noted busy at work beautifying still further the village on the day of adjudication.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

We must confine ourselves to general comments as a schedule of your well presented premises and houses would fill pages. The use of dry fill walls with suitable planting as well is a particular device used skillfully throughout the centre. The National School – with its varying dates – is intriguing while the delightful Dugid House in the Cathedral Square is a gem. The entire Cathedral Square area is of immense interest and is very well presented. The random, coarsed stones of different variety throughout the village adds interest, while other elements, the shutter doors, for example add variety and are, in themselves, pleasant embellishments. The Halla (1810-1882) and the pleasant Golden Thatch were striking.

LANDSCAPING

The communal gardens at St. Ailbe's Terrace opposite the Cathedral are very well presented. The very fine planting on the Tipperary approach road and use of weeping willows makes for a most varied entrance. Minor details, treatment of the red village pump for example with delightful detailing and use of flowers is most successful. In just a few cases flower beds were a little overgrown and some required weeding on the day of adjudication. The planting by the sports ground is a delight. The treatment of fencing with black horizontal bars and alternating red and black vertical bars on approach roads was an interesting detail which worked very well.

The military memorial was very well presented and appropriately decorated. Hanging baskets were a feature which was, in most cases very well presented.

The use of small boxes with planting at the base of the trees might engender a mixed reaction from some. The splendid planting at the Bruff-Kilteely junction is a very impressive presentation and helps to set the tone for the entire village.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The planting and especially the display boards for the farmland birds help to concentrate interest on the variety and depth of wildlife and bird life in the area. Planting of suitable “bird friendly” shrubs and bushes inside the random rubble walls on the Knocklong road is very successful. Pride of place must again be awarded to the Four Seasons gardens which are an additional delightful amenity close to the Cathedral Square. Your policy of involving school children, recording the wildlife and plant life of the area is a brilliant move which will largely enrich their own lives and help secure their involvement in the further beautification of your village in years to come.

LITTER CONTROL

As one might expect in a centre which has displayed so strongly a sense of community pride, litter management is of a comfortable high order throughout the centre. The litter bins we noted were good, being freshly painted and well presented. Typical black spots in other locations, particularly around schools and sports centres, were mercifully free of disfiguring litter in Emly. Congratulations are extended to all involved in this splendid litter free presentation.

TIDINESS

Emly is a very tidy, orderly and well presented centre. Where industrial or commercial activity is present, suitable and appropriate screening and planting has been undertaken. The attractive, wall hugging planting at O’ Donnell’s Engineering was very successful while the treatment of the now derelict Galtee View House, with its full length mural of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs was an excellent, temporary disguise. The absence of weeds was a joy and the Recycle for Life bottle bank was excellent. The roads could be swept here for best effect. Surprisingly the Garda Station did not maintain the same high standards with some spoil in the foreground and minor amounts of litter very much in evidence.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Individual houses throughout the village were presented to an exemplary high standard. The presentation of St. Ailbe’s Drive and the green communal area was a joy to behold.

The sizeable mural here might be said to be approaching the end of its optimum lifespan. The houses in Galtee View featured many recently painted.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads are very well presented most notably in the display at the Hospital/Pallas junction. The verges on the Killeely Road (three e's?) were suitably cut back and the presentation of the yield sign was most colourful. The speed restriction sign and especially the splendid village nameplate are presented to a high order. The road surface itself in a few locations is a bit below par and on occasion the removal of loose pebbles and small stones would add the finishing touch to an overall very fine display.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The lasting presentation of Emly, with its careful attention to detail and which has with all aspects dovetailing into an overall master presentation, is of a village which has been completed to a very high order. Clearly not alone the committee but the entire community have undertaken some tasks or duties which contribute to the totality of a village which is clearly proud of its history and determined to project itself as a delightful place to live and visit. We applaud wholeheartedly the splendid work done by your Committee and encourage the entire community to continue its efforts to make a historic and beautiful village, a joy to experience.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (01/08/02)

The tremendous community spirit that has resulted in developments proceeding to their present level is a great credit to all concerned. Even from the photographs supplied with the application there is a notable sense of community spirit. As usual there is a very high standard of building maintenance – the old school and old halla look particularly well. The many well painted business premises and houses create a lovely atmosphere. In the small estate on the road by the side of the public house, every house is meticulously painted. The mural - cottage front façade, on the old wall is an imaginative idea. Roadside walls are attractive on approach roads and there is a good balance between retaining and displaying the natural stone and at the same time giving a green aspect to the roadside. The climbing plants by the wall at St. Ailbe's Park are excellent as is the village green and its plantings. The Four Seasons garden has developed very quickly and now allows for spending some quite time in its lovely atmosphere.