

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	29
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	204	203

Golden, County Tipperary

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you indeed for all the information sent with the entry form and for the map which was most useful on adjudication day. In connection with the latter perhaps, for next year, you would indicate on it specific projects carried out in 2003 which would make it easier for the Adjudicator to have sight of them. It is gratifying to read that you continue to have the support of Fás, your local Development Association and, of course, most importantly, your community. In order to co-ordinate all these efforts and for the purpose of identifying what environmental projects need to be carried out, Committees are being encouraged to produce a 3/5 year plan to be implemented on a year-to-year basis within their physical and financial resources. This plan need not be elaborate or expensive and can be done in conjunction with your Local Authority, Fás and other agencies. It will also have the effect of acting as a measurement of what progress is being made. In the event perhaps you will send a copy with your entry form next year so that the Adjudicator can have sight of it. You received an in depth report from the Adjudicator last year. The following therefore is by way of comment on further progress to date and should be read in tandem with last years report.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Your Churches, School, Sports Grounds, Stone Bridge and various monuments were again presented this year in a very nice manner. They are being well maintained and great credit is due to all concerned. However, while the surrounding stonewalls and landscaping at the Church car park is exemplary, the surface of the car park, this year, appears to be very rough and is somewhat untidy. Your comments regarding Poplar Hall are noted as are your plans for a new Parish Hall. Hopefully both these projects will have come to fruition by next year. Commercial premises, in the main, looked well. Some however need a coat of paint and, in some cases, need to be refurbished. Perhaps as part of your 3/5 year plan it may be possible to get professional advice on a colour scheme (perhaps for the Main Street) and the redesign of some shop fronts preferably in the old style.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping opposite the GAA Park and on the Tipperary approach road is most attractive as it is in The Green area. The main park in Golden is being beautifully kept and reflects great credit on all concerned. The park however surrounding the Norman Castle looked somewhat dishevelled on adjudication day - grass needed to be cut and generally tidied up. The flower display in the boat looked very nice as did, where presented, those in planters, tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes. All of these combined create a very nice atmosphere around the village. In spite of the fact that some needed cutting, open spaces in housing estates looked very well and are being well maintained.

Again, and as part of your 3/5 year plan you should try to identify other areas in Golden where further planting can take place particularly of trees and shrubs which will give you some colour on an all-year-round basis. Planting which has taken place in the past is now maturing and the village is benefiting greatly from it.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your comments under this heading were noted and bird boxes were a joy to see on adjudication day. While some wild birds were to be seen, nevertheless, the river area would be an ideal site for a specific wildlife project which would not alone enhance the attractions of the village but would also gain you extra marks. Perhaps there is someone in your locality who is interested in this type of development. The Wildlife Officer of Duchas is also available for consultation.

LITTER CONTROL

Some minor littering was to be seen in the Main Street, but, unfortunately, a considerable amount was visible in the vicinity of the McDonagh Monument. Minor littering was also to be seen in the park. This is an important aspect of the Competition and needs to be constantly monitored.

TIDINESS

The village in general was presented in neat and tidy manner but many of the comments made in last years report are still applicable at the same sites. Additional house building was noted and the natural untidiness which occurs with this has been allowed for.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

All estates were visited and in all cases, houses and open spaces are being well maintained. Many houses in these estates and individual houses throughout the village and on the outskirts also had lovely gardens which were in full bloom and a joy to see. This type of support is absolutely vital in a small community if further progress is to be made in the competition. Congratulations to all concerned.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads look good. The Dundrum Road in particular was very nicely presented. The verges on the approach roads from Tipperary and Cashel were in need of cutting, probably due to the high level of growth due to the inclement weather. Road surfaces are being well maintained as are paths. In this connection great credit is due to your Local Authority. In some cases back areas were somewhat untidy. Please remember

that adjudication is not confined to just the main streets. All streets and back areas are visited and adjudicated on.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Golden is a very nice village which, unfortunately, suffers from very heavy passing traffic. Great efforts however are being made by your Committee and your associates and indeed individuals throughout the village to preserve and enhance your living environment and great credit is due to you for this. Further progress in the Competition will be had through planning and attention to detail and, in this connection, the Adjudicator looks forward to returning to Golden again next year to see what further progress has been made.

Keep up the good work.