

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ennis**

Ref: **16**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **267**

Category: **F**

Date: **10/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	49	48
The Built Environment	40	37	36
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	25
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	267	263

Overall Developmental Approach:

Your 41 page submission on 2003 alone is an excellent outline of work on hand and plans for the current year. The attached report "a clean up around Scoil Chríost Rí" is also a clear insight into the community involvement surrounding your Tidy Towns activity, accompanied by Brooks Video. Your ability to involve so many sections of the commercial, sporting, educational and community organisations indicates a great wave of favour for the Tidy Towns concept. Your current efforts follow on great success in last year's competition and on your gold medal award in the European Entente Florale Competition. Your detailed report on activities surrounding the nine categories under adjudication proved helpful throughout the adjudication period.

The Built Environment:

Your strong point here remains the town centre and in particular the vast array of attractive and well presented traditional shop fronts in evidence. It was good to see James Brohan's colourful display back in business at the new premises. The new Civic Centre and Clare Museum are really interesting buildings and contribute to the administrative and tourism importance of the town. The buildings referred to in the previous reports looked well again this year. The Court House and forefront are special and the new Glor Building continues to enhance as the landscape begins to mature. Your weakest areas relate to the poor presentation of a few garages and these should be tackled in the short term. This adjudicator was interested in the policy of Open Space Strategy. Indeed, this policy will certainly reduce the car parking density in the town centre and offer more green spaces for

public comfort, so well done on this policy. Churches, Schools, Library and hotels are all well presented and in many cases, match the standard of the town centre.

Landscaping:

Your efforts here are really supreme. You have learned from your European colleagues through the Entente Florale and your involvement in the Limoges Exchange Project is unique. The town was a blaze of colour during adjudication period and high coloured displays on each approach road excel. You have carried these out throughout the town and the estates and the whole image is one of immense community, individual and administrative involvement. Your treatment of river bridges, banks, car parks, streets and lanes all combine to raise the landscaping standard of the town. You are also benefitting from much of previous years work. The tree planing along by Bank Place up to the church at the corner remains a model for town planting. The embellishment of portable flower display - some four tier in height enables you to give colour to highly built-up areas and this is good strategy. Of particular interest to this adjudicator was the intense landscaping in the car parks. Your landscaping efforts have permeated all sections of the towns infrastructure and this is praiseworthy.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river Fergus and the Clareen River offer great potential under this section. Your cultivation of wild life in front of the Post Office is now a tourist attraction in its own right. We are pleased to learn that the Post Office field will be preserved as a green area. You have matched the natural with the man-made and the colourful, illustrative display boards offer great information to a local and visitor alike. You are also "planting for food" by selecting appropriate species of fruit bearing fruit for planting. We commend you on seeking advice from the specialist.

Litter Control:

You have had some small problems in this area in previous years. This year litter was very well controlled and the system of early morning sweeping and day long attention was in evidence on adjudication period. Many people were observed with reflective clothing attending to litter control. Your submission outlines your widespread efforts through the schools in particular and your annual local competition is proving beneficial. Well done on your Litter Management Plan Recycled Art Competition, Lecture Series and "Wastewatchers Scheme" - putting technology to good anti-litter use.

Tidiness:

Your marks already reflect a high degree of tidiness. You have a few weak spots and two houses opposite Brian Mulqueen's Floral Shop need attention. A couple of garages were a little untidy and some hardware stores and yards were poor in layout of materials - but the commercial trading aspect here is acknowledged. Good luck with the "poop-a-scoop" bags. The work of the Clare County Council here is excellent.

Residential Areas:

The plethora of new housing estates continues unabated in and around Ennis. For the most part new housing schemes go straight into landscaping and finish well. Some individual developments take longer. Each approach road seems to offer new developments and this is quite a challenge for your community. Your activity in "Green Acres Competition, Tree planting during National Tree Planting Week, Clean Up Campaigns etc are most commendable. In general, the standard of estate entrances with appropriate name identities is very good. The Best Kept Garden Competition will have greater relevance as new developments come on stream. The Bilingual signage is now an accepted part of your signage programme - so well done.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

For many years now this adjudicator has admired your quality of street structure and in particular your standards of footpaths, attractive limestone kerbing and layout and identity of your back lanes. More than any other town, Ennis has made great use of side and back entrances in recent years. These areas have now taken on a whole new commercial dimension and add significantly to the commercial and cultural flavour of the town. That said, you have some weak areas that need further attention. The Tulla approach, though quite lengthy was weak in its approach and did not reach the same standard as the Limerick or other approaches, although there is a splendid row of beech trees on the R.H.S as you approach the town from the Tulla side. The great displays of sculpture add great interest and some entertainment in their design to Ennis. You may now have reached adequate numbers in terms of sculpture display.

General Impression:

It was a great delight to visit Ennis again this year and the town was welcoming in so many ways on a brilliant sunny day. One would have to be impressed with the great projection of colour and the amount of commercial and cultural activity in evidence. You have worked hard and your efforts are acknowledged - we applaud you.

Second Round Adjudication:

Do resist the temptation to "gild the lily" by means of excessive floral displays. It's more important to concentrate on permanent and tree planting for year-round effect and as an investment for future generations. There is a good use of the Irish language throughout the town. The standard of litter control was reasonable, though not perfect. The sign to the Queen's Hotel was rather flaky and faded. Generally the streets of the town were presented to a high standard. There is a strong emphasis on street art in the town of Ennis, by use of good quality sculpture in numerous locations, which is to be highly commended. The traffic levels within the town are rather high, leading to congestion, and it is to be hoped that efforts to control this are successful in the not-too-distant future. Perhaps for next year's competition you could consider keeping your submission to the minimum, moderate and compact are the keystones to a user-friendly submission.