

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Silvermines**

Ref: **264**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **245**

Category: **B**

Date: **31/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	
The Built Environment	40	30	
Landscaping	40	39	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	
Litter Control	40	33	
Tidiness	20	16	
Residential Areas	30	25	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	
General Impression	10	8	
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>245</b>	

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thanks to the Silvermines Enhancement Group for completed entry form, sketch map of the village and action plan for the Village under defined headings.

Judging by the last adjudicator's report 2002 was the last year the Village entered the Competition -if this is correct I extend a welcome back to a village steeped in history and located in one of the most appealing parts of Tipperary.

The Enhancement Group have set about putting the Village back in the Tidy Towns limelight. Good relationships with the authorities and the local community are the stepping stones for success in the competition.

### The Built Environment:

The streetscape looked well as one observed from either end of the village but there were a few negatives that on closer inspection that took away from this impression.

The O Caidghre premises, which is rather large, does take away from the main street as it is in a bad state of repair. It would be such an imposing building if restored properly and would have a totally different effect visually as well structurally on the village.

To compensate for this there were a number of very well presented premises.

J Ryans with its very well maintained yard was noted for its frontage but maybe its time to replace the sign with something more in keeping with tradition. Hickeys Bar also looked well although the local news agent/shop could give consideration to making its front that little bit more prominent by

way of say a traditional type of Shop sign.

The Church, School and amenity area( sports pitches and court) adjacent to both looked in very good condition.

It is hoped that the building work being undertaken near Miners Corner will be completed on target as it is not a pretty sight at the moment

### **Landscaping:**

It is noted from the submission that there is a good deal of work planned in this category most of which is of a practical nature.

The standard of both presentation of planting arrangements and in deed the ongoing maintenance was very good.

Cuain Mhuire is indeed a place of peace and is enhanced by some exceptional rose beds.

The stone surrounded walls were dotted with fern growth from crevices which was unusual.

The picnic and green area near Church was in good condition but the fencing needed to be treated with wood presevative. I did notice that this fencing was due to be replaced as part of the work programme so I presume that this will be done prior to next years competition.

The shrub bed opposite Arus Odhrain was a little crowded and needs to be tinned out at the most appropriate time of year.

Existing trees are on the whole well maintained although a few within the village have been damaged. It is not recommended to put flowers at base of trees as this clutters the base and stifles growth.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

In terms of natural amenities Silvermines would probably be the envy of most similar sized places in Ireland that would not have half the natural habitats available to them.

Good to see plans to install an information board within the next year.

The wildlife trail which starts within the core of the village is such a haven for all species of indigenous wildlife.

### **Litter Control:**

The effort of all residents has contributed to the fact that the Village was very clean on the day it was adjudicated.

A few wrappers were noticed at the base of shrubs and some walls but this is to be expected.

Recycling area near the school was very tidy

Keep up the good work.

### **Tidiness:**

Overall the standard in this category was quite good with most kerbsides free of weed growth.

Some farm related activity waste was strewn around the outskirts and a few signs need to be cleaned or indeed replaced prior to next year. In actual fact all the signage that is at the junction Newport/Roscrea road should be reviewed and possibly upgraded within the near future.

### **Residential Areas:**

There are a few small estates of houses in Silvermines and the residents of these are contributing to the good work being undertaken elsewhere.

A number of new houses have been built in the last year or so and more are in the process of same.

All the owners of these new homesteads should be made aware of the plans of the Silvermines Enhancement Group for improving the village.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The excellent stone signs introducing Beal Atha an Gabhann give entrances to the village an inviting appeal to the place.

Approach and internal link roads were kept in an acceptable manner with verges cut back and road surfaces, with one or two exceptions, in good condition.

Back areas were also well presented on the day with possible two exceptions where there was a degree of untidiness

### **General Impression:**

The Village has had a sos for a year and is now back to near its very best.

Silvrmines always had that appealing quality helped in no small way by the natural beauty of the surrounding countryside.

The new Group will be intent on bringing Silvermines back to the front of Tidy Towns.

Keep up the concerted effort.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

All the green areas surrounding the Church and school provide an excellent facility and are very well cared for; these have very good tree and shrub plantings lending a permanency to the landscape. On walking towards the old smelting area an unwelcome sight of the remains of a fire with rusty wire mesh and other forms of litter including glass appears. In the street there is a very good standard of presentation with the trees that were pruned back hard now showing a fuller appearance and the footpath containers add a nice summer splash of colour. A door near the telephone kiosk needs attention and some premises opposite this as well need finishing. The Nature Trail and bird sanctuary present a lovely opportunity for strolling and enjoying the natural environment – the winding pathways and seating by the river is lovely. Some planting of Cordyline trees within this area was noticed – perhaps it would be better to plant trees native or more usually found in such natural areas.. Small incidents of littering were spotted. The timber paling throughout the village greens is very attractive. The ICA tree planting on the Nenagh has matured well.