

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Templemore**

Ref: **401**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **209**

Category: **C**

Date: **01/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	41
The Built Environment	40	34	32
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	16	16
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>203</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the completed entry form, historical and future work plan as well as map of the town and its surrounding area.

The adjudicator notes that there is concern about the lack of sponsorship but the practical work undertaken from other sections of the community is a big bonus.

The Chamber and Lions Club also have made practical contributions by sponsoring name and web address signs. Good web site with much valued information on the Town.

Comments made in last years report in relation to spreading the effort over various sections have been taken on board.

Investment in permanent features has long term benefits but that is not to say that seasonal work such as shrub/flower planting does not have its merits.

It is good to note that there is a strong working relationship with both the Urban Council and the County Council, issues that are outside the control of the Tidy Towns Committee can be addressed and acted upon.

### The Built Environment:

Templemore is an impressive town with an expansive square some unique examples old shop fronts and private residences that are associated with a military era.

Its noteworthy that this association is depicted by remembrance plaques on the Town Hall.

Its been some years since this adjudicator traversed the town and in that period there has been

some major infrastructure changes for the better.

Road surfaces and town square layout have been improved, and pavements are being improved on a piece meal basis.

The level of dereliction has decreased although there are still some old premises ie John Mahers and a number of others both on the same side and on the opposite side of the square that hopefully will be tackled in time.

The completion of the new Garda Station and Library is welcomed both are in keeping with the vernacular of the town.

The old shop fronts alluded to early are very much part of the history of Templemore and it is to the credit of both Grey establishments ,Tmorkham and Foleys Bar ( very rare photo of Tipperary Football Team of 1927) that they have retained the original features.

The Public buildings were presented to an acceptable standard but Our Ladys Secondary school could do with some external painting and also restore the nameplate which is damaged.

The Church of Ireland is very well kept as its Catholic counterpart.

Unfortunately the parking area at the Catholic Church is rather untidy due to loose litter and broken household furnishings,.

The following more modern establishments deserve mention for the manner in which they have presented their premises Ninos Bistro,Harrahills Bar, Templemore Arms and Murphys Bar all in the centre of town.

On the outskirts the following were also noted Cambie's Garage and Shop,Grey's Funeral Home, Templemore Joinery, the impressive Abbey Furniture Store and social landmark Pollys Pub which is worth a return visit.

The Town is fortunate to have two distinctive buildings namely the Townhall and the Garda Training College.

Aside from the obvious commercial benefits that the town has derived from the College it has also benefited infrastructurally and aesthetically.

The comment about plastic signs in last years report is still somewhat valid and even if changes are effected in small way each year,well this is progress.

## **Landscaping:**

The town has traditionally performed well in this category and this year is no different.

The tree planting and hedge planting on the Thureles Road was noted.

Templemore is very lucky in that it has a very well maintained Town Park and it has matured in the intervening years since this adjudicator last visited.

The GAA Grounds,home to JK Brackens I presume, was very well maintained and blended in very well with the overall landscape.

It seemed as if there was improvement work ongoing at the track of Templemore AC , this is good to see as there are precious few dedicated athletic venues in the Country.

There were very noteworthy planting arrangements dotted around the town especially in the immediate area of the Training College, fine mature trees and a mix of practical shrubs and annual flowers.

This was replicated in other areas and most importantly all were well tended.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

There was reference in this years entry form to the town park as natural habitat for various forms of wildlife especially swans and mallard duck.

It would be beneficial if the committee went one step further and organised some basic wildlife project in conjunction with both the schools and a wildlife enthusiast from the town.

## **Litter Control:**

This is a category where the standard was a little inconsistent despite the weekly organised picks. There was too much litter evident in areas of Bank Street and towards the Clonmore end of the town.

Room for improvement

## **Tidiness:**

As in the previous section a little mixed and one doesn't want to harp on about it but weed growth and other residue should be removed on a regular basis from kerbsides.

It was noticeable too that the Pub Smoking Ban is taking its toll on towns like Templemore as there were a large quantity of butts visible at the base of kerbsides.

Templemore is not alone in having this problem.

The overgrown area opposite the Parish Priest's House stands out and should be camouflaged in some form or other.

Something that quite a lot of towns and villages have are untidy telephone wires criss crossing and creating a bad appearance. There may be plans in the future to put these wires underground which will be a big and disruptive undertaking if it happens.

The Car Park near Church, because of inherent problems, was very untidy and it is incumbent upon the Town Council to address and make good the situation.

On the positive side areas such as the Town Park and adjoining housing estates were very tidy and it is good to see that provision has been made for a dog dirt receptacle.

## **Residential Areas:**

Templemore has some mature housing estates and in an overall context most were very well presented.

Parkview (Radharc Na Parca Thiar what a lovely resonance to that name, a pity that name sign wasn't visible or if it was this adjudicator did not see it) in its entirety was in very good condition.

McDonagh Terrace also well kept but some areas such as the Terrace of Houses opposite Tipperary Glass were a little mixed not helped by the condition of the road.

The cottage type houses on the road in from Thurles and a terrace of unique houses on the circular road up to Pollys Pub were also admired.

A number of new private estates have sprung up over the last few years and these have been well maintained.

Some very fine private residences were noted on the outskirts of the town and again all of these were well presented, some with very fine frontages such as Realt An Oir on the Thurles Road into the town.

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

The entrances into the town have been enhanced by new name signs and in a few cases web address signs. These have been sponsored by the Chamber and Lion Clubs and credit to these organisations for this type of practical support.

The Thurles entrance was very impressive as was the Clonmore Entrance with an improved road surface.

The Roscrea entrance was acceptable but some signs were dirty in contrast to the signs on the previously mentioned entrances.

The Borrisoleigh entrance standard was a little inconsistent with too much weed growth in some parts.

## **General Impression:**

Templemore has some very impressive features and advantages that other places do not have.

It has performed well in the competition to date and the Committee are working hard to ensure that this standard is maintained and improved upon.

Keep up the good work.