

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cahir**

Ref: **404**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **218**

Category: **D**

Date: **24/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	
The Built Environment	40	32	
Landscaping	40	27	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	
Litter Control	40	29	
Tidiness	20	15	
Residential Areas	30	25	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	
General Impression	10	7	
TOTAL MARK	300	218	

Overall Developmental Approach:

We welcome Cahir back into the Tidy Towns Competition and wish them every success in it. The work being carried by your committee in co-operation with South Tipperary County Council, the County Development Board and the help and advice from various other bodies was to be seen in Cahir on adjudication day. Although suffering from an enormous amount of throughput traffic the town looks very well and has a very nice atmosphere. Thank you indeed for all the information sent with the entry form and for the map. Your Strategic Plan is excellent and contains a huge amount of information and objectives. In terms of these objectives, both short and long term, try to lay this out over a 3/5 year period identifying what you can do (with the assistance of other agencies) within your physical and financial resources. This can also be used as a checklist to measure what you are achieving on an annual basis. The mistake some centres make is to try to do too much in the short term which, can only lead to frustration if unachievable.

The Built Environment:

For a town of its size Cahir has some wonderful public buildings – the Castle and Bridge, two Churches, Garda Station, Post Office, National School, Adult Education Centre, College and a lovely Craft Centre all of which are being very well maintained. The Railway Station is somewhat untidy. Those that have been refurbished were not generally identifiable but, nevertheless, commercial premises throughout the town look very well and have improved considerably over the last number of years. The monument at the Castle, surrounded by its lovely flowerbed, is a very nice attraction

as is the Piper in the Square, the surroundings of which were much admired as was the Credit Union building which is a fine structure.

Landscaping:

As already mentioned, landscaping at the Monument and in the Square looks very well. The Inch Field is a beautiful facility to have as indeed is the rejuvenated River Walk. More could be made of the very nice pump on the Cork Road. In general comments made in the 2002 report still apply and it is noted that a move in this respect is included in your strategic plan. Trees and shrubs, planted in the past are now maturing. Trees planed now are for the future and posterity will thank you for them.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The very good work carried out to date in and around the Inch Field was seen and admired as indeed is your whole approach in your Strategic Plan to this aspect of the competition. Perhaps you might also consider getting your School children involved in a simple project such as the provision of nesting boxes and feeding tables in the School grounds which would prove very attractive there and perhaps stimulate their interest in this subject for the future.

Litter Control:

While the centre of Cahir Town was litter free on adjudication day there was however some litter to be seen in the car park and to a minor extent, on approach roads. Nevertheless great work is being done by your committee and all concerned are to be congratulated for it.

Tidiness:

Bearing in mind that there is some building in progress around the town, Cahir, nevertheless, was presented in a neat and tidy manner which reflects greatly on your commercial interests and your residents and the interest they have in the preservation of their environment. Well done to all concerned.

Residential Areas:

Your comments regarding assistance being given to Residence Committees under the FAS Scheme indeed are well borne out if one is to judge by the number of housing estates which were visited on adjudication day. Needless to say they could not all be visited but those that were, were very nicely presented with lovely open spaces and gardens in full bloom. Individual houses also looked well, again with lovely gardens, which created a very nice ambience in the town and added greatly to your overall efforts. This is an important aspect of the competition. Without this collective and individual effort by residents you cannot hope to succeed. Again, congratulations to all involved.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

In general road surfaces in the town are being well maintained. Some approach roads however badly need resurfacing which is probably due to the huge amount of throughput traffic which Cahir suffers from. Footpaths are being well maintained also and, in general, approach roads are nicely presented with verges cut back and, with the odd exception, being free of litter.

General Impression:

If, over the next number of years, you can continuously implement your Strategic Plan Cahir should do very well in the competition. Perhaps a further objective should be to be vieing for the County Award in three years time. The secret of success is careful planning and attention to detail and the

identification under the different headings of the competition projects you can carry out which will gain you additional marks. The Adjudicator wishes you every success for the future and looks forward to returning to Cahir next year to see further progress made.