

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cashel**

Ref: **296**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **197**

Category: **D**

Date: **23/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	29	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	15
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	197	190

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the entry form and the much improved map which was very helpful on the day of adjudication. Cashel, of ancient significance, continues to be most imposing and impressive on adjudication day. The views of the ever present Rock, particularly from the Boherlahan Road are stunning. At an entirely different scale, the little house Bothan Scoir is a delightful cameo.

Extensive stone walls are an important feature and attention is needed where they begin to unravel, notably at the Hill Road off Ladyswell. The quality wall building at Deer Park Road is to be applauded. There is a concern about the general presentation of the Cahir Road, a number of empty sites, with no sense of enclosure detract materially from the inspiring view of the Rock from this venue. Cashel is an important tourism destination but there is an overkill of signage e.g. at one location on the approach to the Rock, no less than twenty five different signs - some poor and old in need of refurbishment - are visible.

The Built Environment:

Great improvements have been made to the presentation of mercantile building in the town. Civic buildings, notably those clustered in PJ Hogan Square, were well painted and presented. The fine stone walls surrounding the car park are delightfully well presented and this town centre facility is being widely used. The new Credit Union building is well presented and the Halla na Feila was most colourful. The imposing Parish Pastoral Centre and the new County Council offices are strong

statements while the nearby, delightful O'Dwyer's Family Butchers is an example of a fine traditional shopfront, while O'Suilleabhain Pub and the almost adjacent M Bourke Newsagents are a special delight. The exciting infill buildings at Lower Main Street and also at Upper Main Street above its junction with Friary Street, House of Bosaglia, are impressive. The fine School complex Scoil Eoinbarst, large scale yet well sited and suitably maintained is a strong addition to the building stock of the town.

Landscaping:

Very fine planting has been undertaken and is maturing nicely on the Dublin approach road. Further in, at Ladyswell Street, the planting here is equally good but sadly is obscuring the very fine cut stone wall. Incidental plating throughout the town, notably for example at the Clonmel Roundabout triangle give an agreeable splash of colour. The plating of shrubs in the carpark is excellent both in terms of its presentation and its ground covering characteristics. The extensive grounds of the Community College were very well presented utilizing both the scale and selection of trees all enhanced by the flying of flags.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It may be thought that in the larger towns, wildlife must necessarily take a lesser priority. However many locations exist within the town which are both suitable and appropriate for development as wildlife sanctuaries. The area around the Hospital for example, both the National School and the Community College in addition to a shaded area in the carpark are all very suitable for consideration in this connection. The development of wildlife sanctuaries are seen as an intricate part of the Tidy Towns programme and the committee is urged to discuss the options with the local bird and wildlife enthusiasts or call on the services of the Wildlife Officer attached to the Office of Public Works.

Litter Control:

Cashel is a busy, thriving centre and in this respect acquitted itself well in this category. Litter bins at the entrance gate to the Community College and elsewhere were suitably sighted and clearly being used. The very busy Rock of Cashel area was pleasantly free of litter but the lesser travelled streets did not project such a favourable impression. The residential as opposed to the commercial sector left some room for improvement also.

Tidiness:

We were struck by the absence of weeds at the base of walls and applaud the attention to this oft overlooked element. Sadly quite a number of approach roads featured grass outside the verges which detracted somewhat. Roads in general were well swept and neat and orderly. There is a concern about the scale and setting of some signs particularly in the Ladywell Street area. The visitor information sign, suitably located outside the carpark has a number of letters missing from it and looks somewhat sad and neglected. Similarly the plaque plinth outside the Bru Boru is devoid of its plaque. The Hospital grounds were very well presented as was those of the Bolton Library. However the front facing wall of the grounds would benefit from power washing as it is somewhat disfigured.

Residential Areas:

Extensive new building is in progress in Cashel. Carrig Downes is very well presented and is being built to a very high standard. A significant development on the Tipperary Road is well advanced while the new Lime Tree Grove shows distinct promise with its fine cut stone entrance. Established locations, Woodlawn Estate and Hillview were all well developed and presented to high standards. Abbey side Terrace on the Dualla Road conveyed a mixed impression with many houses and gardens of a high order.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

With the exception of the Cahir Road each of the approach roads to Cashel are very well presented and welcoming. The Boherlahan Road and the Dundrum Road in particular feature dramatic views of the spectacular Rock itself. The black and yellow painted curbing was a very good feature but it needs to be washed or perhaps repainted. On the Clonmel Road even minor items like the 30mph signs were well presented and there was a profusion of flowers continually catching the eye. The new buildings on the Tipperary Road give a hopefully temporary, somewhat unclear view of the road edging. There is a need to insure that there is a clear cut divide between the road proper and the side verge. The provision of pavements will assist greatly in this. The major difficulty remains the approach from Cahir. Quite a number of large scale industrial premises now appear to have ceased trading and there is a disagreeable absence of continuity or enclosure along this road accentuated by the number of unused sites. No immediate or short term solution is clearly available for this situation but it is something that over time the Authorities and commercial interests could usefully address.

General Impression:

Cashel is a splendid location deservedly one of Ireland major visitor destinations. Everywhere is the over arching, imposing presence of the Rock which can be seen from many locations in tantalizing glimpses tall or visual exposure. The town that has grown up around it, features a number of splendid locations and is rich also in archaeological remains. The interesting street scapes with their colourful shops, pubs and business have a vibrancy which will be even more enjoyed when traffic volumes are reduced to a more manageable level. Thank you for your ongoing efforts which are greatly applauded.