

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonmel**

Ref: **554**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **241**

Category: **F**

Date: **02/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	23
Litter Control	40	30	28
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	241	234

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you indeed for all the information sent with your entry form and for the maps which were most useful on adjudication day. With such a big centre to look after it is gratifying to read that you continue to have the support of the Clonmel Borough Council, Tipperary County Council, Chamber of Commerce, Schools, many other organisations and your Residence Associations. For a town of its size your committee of eight is quite small but is doing an excellent job in co-ordinating the activities of the many other bodies involved in the Tidy Towns effort. You received in-depth reports from two adjudications last year. The following therefore is by way of comment on perceived further progress to date and should be read in tandem with last years reports.

The Built Environment:

All of the public buildings mentioned in last years report were again visited this year. They are all being well maintained and were nicely presented. Work in progress on the Swimming Pool was noted as were your comments regarding the West Gate. In the case of the later the Adjudicator looks forward to seeing further progress next year. The Frank Patterson Memorial is a lovely addition at Mick Delahunty Square and the Quay Area again looked very well this year. Local Government buildings are being well maintained and the floral display in front of the Town Hall was much admired. As mentioned last year, some dereliction still exists. Arising out of your comments last year regarding the Railway Station the Adjudicator visited the site again this year but it is somewhat unclear whether work has taken place there or not. Special mention has to be made

again of the Main Guard – a wonderful building which any town could be proud of. Business premises are being very well maintained. Some however do need refurbishment and perhaps this could be part of your future planning with the Chamber of Commerce.

Landscaping:

The Richard Mulchay Park again looked resplendent this year and your comments regarding improvements were noted. Roundabouts, in general, are being well looked after and landscaping throughout the town was much admired. Where presented, containerised planting, hanging baskets, window boxes and floral displays of all kinds added greatly to the overall atmosphere of Clonmel and reflects greatly the interest which your residents and your business community have in enhancing their living environment.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Wilderness Gorge is indeed a wonderful wildlife facility the noises from which were to be heard loud and clear on adjudication day. General improvements on last year were noted. The walkway and nature trail is a lovely recreational facility to be used by residents and visitors alike. This is an excellent project and all concerned are to be congratulated. Lady Blessingtons Bath was visited also this year. It too is a lovely facility and was nicely presented.

Litter Control:

Clonmel was practically litter free on adjudication day with work in progress on litter collection noted. Unfortunately some of the outlying areas did have some evidence of littering as did the area surrounding the old Railway Station. This is an important part of the whole competition and needs constant monitoring,

Tidiness:

In general the town was presented in a very neat and tidy manner with evidence of individual commercial owners out sweeping in front of their premises. This is to be encouraged and applauded. Open storage at factories, particularly on the outskirts of the town, is a problem which, undoubtedly, is difficult to solve. Perhaps it could be suggested to the managements concerned that some judicious planting of trees could help in the screening off of these spaces. This has been successfully done in other centres.

Residential Areas:

Clonmel has a vast number of housing estates and while it was not possible to see them all, those that were visited are being very well maintained and reflect great credit on their residents. It is noted that your Residence Associations are a tremendous help with your Tidy Towns effort and this was reflected in the work being carried out in the estates which the Adjudicator managed to visit. Lovely gardens were again in full bloom this year both in the estates and at individual houses throughout the town. Again a great benefit to your Tidy Towns effort and all concerned are to be congratulated.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All major approach roads – from Waterford, Cahir, Dungarvan and Cashel were visited and were all nicely presented with evidence of mowing and strimming. Roundabouts are being well maintained – some perhaps better than others. The building of a new pathway on the Waterford Road was noticed. In general road surfaces are very good and pathways are being well maintained. With the extension of shopping facilities many side streets in the town looked very nice indeed and, in this respect, pedestrianised areas were to be admired.

General Impression:

What was said in last years report can only be reiterated this year and that is that there is a lovely atmosphere in Clonmel created by your many fine public buildings, your well presented commercial premises and your pedestrianisation all blended with lovely landscaping and, of course, all the facilities of the River Suir. While tremendous work has and is being carried out, now is the time to plan for the next 3/5 years. You should be looking very closely at the various headings in the competition to see where you can create improvements and or new projects which could gain you additional marks. As you have now reached a high level in the competition these will be hard to come by in the future and will call for creative planning and attention to detail. You are fortunate in having many public bodies and organisations to help with such an exercise. The Adjudicator looks forward to returning to Clonmel again next year to see what further progress has been made. In the meantime keep up the good work.

Second Round Adjudication:

Clonmel was looking very well at second adjudication. The floral features through the town were at their peak with the petunia containers adding great sparkle to the town. The Lime trees along the Mall with the adjacent geranium planters looked very welcoming on entry to the town. Quayside containers were also at their best. The tree planting in Gladstone Street will add greatly to the streetscape as these trees mature. The trees by the Motor tax office show how much street trees can add to the streetscape. The Box hedge feature at the Cahir roundabout is very impressive and the nearby Oakville shopping centre has an attractive Dahlia display backed by a stand of trees and shrubs. The container plantings outside the houses on Anne Street were admired. The Main Guard restoration is a wonderful achievement and looks imposing. The quality of the built environment has developed well through the years. There are vastly contrasting styles – the single storied cottages such as at River Street and Davis Row to the Three storied buildings at Anne Street and Brighton Place. There is an equality-contrasting situation among the business premises. Pedestrianised areas are very effective and give a great freedom in those areas for people. The Regal Theatre is looking very sad and hopefully some rejuvenation will occur soon. The building being restored on King Street by Kings Close is a very welcome sight and will add to the fund of important buildings in the town. The Heritage Trail is a wonderful asset to Clonmel and the signage and street nameplates are wonderful. Some litter was noted in the St. Mary's church graveyard and the road leading to it and small amount in Delahunty Square. The poppy sculpture on the Moangarrif roundabout makes a very vibrant statement. The Richard Mulcahy park is a wonderful park and this combined with the river walk offers a great facility for the town.