

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Emly**

Ref: **600**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **257**

Category: **B**

Date: **02/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	34	32
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	24
Litter Control	40	36	35
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	33
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	257	249

Overall Developmental Approach:

Once again it was a joy to visit Emly and to observe your continuing progress, commitment and success. Thank you for the range of material you have submitted, inclusive of detailed entry form, photographs, press cutting, town brochure and especially the map, details on bird life, trees and shrubs, details of the new wild life area coming to fruition after many years of splendid endeavour. The concept of Emly as a living rural life museum, the bird watch survey undertaken by the National School and especially your kind gesture - the gift of the Emly Parish Choir CD all are appreciated and proved useful on the day of adjudication. The extent of the involvement of the next generation is encouraging and the manner in which they have been invited to take part ownership of your programme is commendable and certainly the best way to inculcate the Tidy Towns concept to the upcoming generation. Other aspects of your activities will be discussed under their appropriate headings. The increasing use of differing colours on the capping stones of front facing walls adds an additional element to the colourful presentation of the village.

We noted the extensive work in progress at Glen Court. It is pleasant to record it as being suitably fenced and is well presented even during construction. The flying of flags is definitely encouraged as few activities, at modest cost, can add the same colour and movement to a centre. We applaud the flying of flags at Byrne's Tavern for example.

The Built Environment:

Extensive house construction is in progress at a number of locations throughout the centre. These are being constructed, in a manner, setting and to a scale which respects their surroundings. Of particular note is the splendid presentation of Hanley's Pub and the nearby Byrnes' Tavern. The Post Office is well presented and the splendidly black and white appearance of McGrath's caught the eyes. The Parish Hall, with its historical plaque, is of great interest and well presented while the visually important Forge Bar was a delight. The Garda Station was somewhat more acceptably presented this year.

Pride of place of course is reserved for the splendid Cathedral, historically and visually the centre of the little village. It conveys a deep sense of history and the town's awareness and pride in that history. The series of memorial stained glass windows are a delight as are the grounds, and the Church itself.

Landscaping:

Everywhere the landscape incorporating the built environment underscores the justifiable pride and significance that the "Little Village" has in the hearts and minds of the present generation. The beautifully conceived and splendidly executed Emigrant Millennium project is sizeable and important. The display of vintage agricultural equipment at the Forge Bar, the William Slattery Memorial and even the treatment afforded the Pump at the Galbally Road junction are all at peace in this regard. The recycling of the old kerb stones and the raised gardens in the foreground of the Cathedral is very pleasant as are the trees in their white based boxes. The presentation of the area around the Burke Memorial GAA Park was splendid. The extent of tree planting and shrubs in incidental areas, around the Cathedral and elsewhere have a delightful, softening effect on the overall vista. Few villages can claim to have such a superb presentation which merges the landscape with wildlife as you have achieved with your Four Seasons presentation. Both in concept, execution, maintenance and presentation this is justifiably a multi award winning location and all involved in each of the four aspects are to be applauded for their superb success.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We have, elsewhere, referred to the success of the Four Seasons and it might, with equal justification, be included under this category. The establishment of Timpeallacht Fhiabheatha has been most successful at the side of the dispensary and also the Knocklong Road, both equally important elements in this regard. Smaller incidental areas especially in the residential and housing area should also be incorporated as opportunities present themselves.

Litter Control:

Sadly it will never be possible to wholly eradicate litter from our towns and villages. That being said it is apparent that Emly has, while not achieving the ideal, made major stride in this regard. There was a total absence in the area of the GAA grounds and the School and throughout the centre generally, largely the same applies. Surprisingly the Cathedral Square was the location for most of the litter found, albeit said even here very limited in extent. Litter bins, suitably sited and well maintained are to be found throughout the Centre.

Tidiness:

An overall sense of order and neatness is very much the norm in Emly, most aspects are suitably positioned and convey an agreeable vista to the observer. Inevitably in a Tidy Towns report it is necessary to draw attention to those few items which do jar. It is pleasant to record that the two houses, caught up in the difficulties last year were well presented and did not in any way detract this year. Even the area behind the Post Office was neat and orderly and there was an absence of spoil by the road side. The Petrol Pump at the central Garage, which appears to be out of service could with advantage be removed while the sign at English Shop will soon need repainting. In common with the position in other centres, the display signs, Welcome to West Tipperary, appears to be somewhat faded. The recycle bank areas was, while clearly being used preserved in a good and tidy

order. The Sizeable St. Ailbe's co-operative although large was neat and orderly.

In common with many centres, the manner in which cars are parked can be intrusive and untidy. More than in other centres there seems to be a prevalence of cars partially parked on the pavement and partially on the road. Perhaps an agreement to use only one side of the road for parking would relieve matters.

Residential Areas:

The vibrant use of colours in a coordinated fashion has contributed greatly to the overall pleasing presentation of Galtee View Housing. The individual, large house at the end of this street would benefit from a repainting of its front facing walls. The coordinated painting at St Ailbe's Terrace was a delight. Individual houses throughout the village were almost universally freshly painted and many of them have their fine characteristics accentuated by splendid individual garden display. Communal grassed areas particularly at St Ailbe's Drive were a delightful counterpoint to the individual houses.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approaches to the village, from all directions featured suitably cut back verges and hedges, neat clean speed limit signs and village nameplates. In a few places the road surface itself was less than perfect. Displays particularly at Carroll's Cross junction were executed to a very high order and throughout the village the roads were suitably swept, clear of spoil and grass. These favourable comments apply to even the minor approach roads as none had been overlooked. All had received appropriate but not excessive treatment. The objective of ensuring a clear cut divide between the village proper and its surrounding rural area had been achieved with admirable success on virtually all entrances.

General Impression:

Emly is clearly becoming a contender for major national recognition in the Tidy Towns competition. There is a concerted, coordinated, community wide involvement which is transgenerational in nature and all embracing in its involvement. As it begins to compete, at the highest level, each and every minor aspect must receive attention, particularly those few small negative points outlined above which need remedial action. All and all Emly has projected itself in a superb manner which reflects creditably on the present generations who in many cases appear to get their inspiration from generations now gone and are sharing and nurturing that same inspiration in the generations currently rising. Congratulations to all involved in a splendid, pleasing and colourful presentation.

Second Round Adjudication:

The very well painted buildings throughout Emly - both residential and business premises gives the village a very well cared for appearance. Some tin roofed sheds needing attention remain in the background at various places - such as comes into sight in Galtee View and another in from the new housing estate behind the Halla. The high standard of cleanliness and tidiness throughout the village and surrounds is remarkable and earns Emly the title of a truly tidy village. Community input into the presentation of the village is very evident with so many houses and business premises presenting a beautiful display of gardens and planted containers. The open areas show a great pride in the village and the historic associations and remembrances give Emly a special character. The block wall by the approach to the new housing behind the Halla could be planted with some wall creepers to soften the harsh blocks - as has been done at the wall at the tennis courts. The Four Seasons garden has developed very well and serves both as a wild life area and a pleasant garden. The Wild Garden is a lovely idea and needs a few years to give plenty of cover. Excellent work has been done with the school children - both their teacher and themselves deserve great credit for the interest and efforts. Hopefully the store of refuse by the toilets in the Churchyard can be dealt with.

