

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Golden**

Ref: **71**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **216**

Category: **B**

Date: **26/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	30
The Built Environment	40	30	28
Landscaping	40	36	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	28	29
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	216	212

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submitting the comprehensive completed entry form, the fine array of photographs together with a copy of the village renewal programme setting out the various projects to be undertaken over time by both Tipperary County Council and the Community itself. Golden enjoys spectacular views towards the Galtee Mountains and these, together with the river should be seen as primary focal points, enhancing the general presentation of the village.

The Built Environment:

Significant progress has been made in very suitable infill.....houses notably, but not exclusively at the end of the road at Radharc Alainn and just before the bridge. On a different scale the various nameplates, cut out in limestone are a delight and give a great sense of presence to the village. In many cases they have been so sited as to be accentuated and improved by the house buildings or grassed areas behind them. The Bridge is an important element of vernacular architecture but its undoubted capacity to impact on the scene is blighted by the extent of spoil and weeds allowed to accumulate along it. Very simple remedial action would enhance it substantially. The monument on the bridge, mid-river is again important and was very well presented. Other buildings that caught the eye including the repainted Post Office, the refurbished Garda Station, Eamon Ryan family Butcher, Stastrappes mini market - although it is important not to overdo the extent of window advertising which can detract from the overall impact of the shop front proper, Ogartaigh is a very fine shop front but the comments, in last year's adjudication, concerning the inappropriate location

for Keg storage still apply.

The sizeable cooperative store which appears to have ceased trading will need urgent return to beneficial activity if it is not to become a -----specially in this high visibility area.

Landscaping:

Golden has secured a very high mark under this heading the imposing backdrop of the Galtee Mountains the extent and maintenance standard of green grassed areas throughout the village at the triangle and elsewhere richly deserve this recognition. The very pleasant planting at the GAA grounds entrance caught the eye while the green area opposite the National School was a delight. The use of bedding plants is most colourful but do be aware that they bring with them a very high maintenance factor. The painting of the kerb stones in white and black accentuated the presentation here. The extensive grassed area on the left of the road along via Radharc Alainn estate was very appropriately cut for its setting with the spectacular Galtee Mountains in the distance. The Galtee View estate, still getting established, featured some suitable tree planting against the wall. There is an extensive site, currently unused at the junction of the Cahir Road with Radharc Alainn estate which, if it is not soon to be utilised, would be a most appropriate setting for a wildlife sanctuary.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river and park area are extremely valuable resources in this connection the extent of bird life, swans and other are a delight. Smaller scale areas have also been put to good effect, the small grassed area in Pierce Park with its bird table and its tree centre piece has also potential. It will be necessary to establish suitable planting to commence the food chain on which bird life inevitably depends. The bird box at the triangle was suitably located and appropriately sized

Litter Control:

While there were disappointed all be it minor pockets of litter along the Main Street areas the housing estates and residential areas generally were presently free of such disfigurement. Additional litter bins will aid in the further reduction of litter -----at the GAA entrance area and the school for example have demonstrated their effectiveness.

Tidiness:

In general Golden projects a neat and orderly air. Unhappily there is a surprising extent of weeds and spoil at the base of front facing walls and between the kerb stones and the road proper in many location. The elimination of this disfigurement is relatively easy in terms of energy input and we would encourage a greater concentration amongst individuals, the Committee and the community in general in this regard. Elsewhere we make further reference to the extent of the road signage.

Residential Areas:

The very fine houses completed on the Cashel Road have now installed appropriate front facing walls which give a very pleasing sense of closure to the street and road scape. In a few places planting outside the walls has been undertaken to extremely advantageous effect. Pierce Park is well maintained with many excellent individual houses however the extent of weeds and spoil at the base of walls and between the kerbs and roads is a negative factor here as well. In the newly developed Galtee View estate the grassed area was appropriately cut but grass clipping has been allowed to accumulate on the edge of the road which detracted considerably from the overall vista.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

In general road surfaces were suitable throughout the centre. On a number of occasion the divide line between the road and the pavement or ditch is not clearly defined. Grass verges generally were

very well presented particularly on the Tipperary Road. The Welcome to West Tipperary sign post is beginning to fade and remedial action or appropriate ultra violet protection will be necessary here. Excellent planting is a feature of the approach from the Tipperary direction. There is attention required to the unravelling of the low level wall on this approach. We feel it necessary to comment on the standard of the road signage generally both directional and indeed the nameplate sign need urgent attention. On the Cashel Road for example the nameplate has been uprooted and is now lying in a very sad state at the side of the road. The Cahir sign at the triangle is very much below par as are the two signs on the river bridge. The Committee should encourage strongly the relevant Local Authority to affect an improvement here.

General Impression:

Blessed by its setting Golden has also been enhanced by the energetic involvement of a Committee. Additional marks have been secured this year and with continuing attention and community involvement Golden clearly demonstrates the potential to secure a far higher grading in subsequent years. All associated with this year's entry are warmly applauded for their efforts.