

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tipperary**

Ref: **68**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **190**

Category: **D**

Date: **11/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	25
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	21	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	27	22
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	190	179

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your most detailed submission, both the entry form but also the main supporting documentation, map index and town heritage trail, details of your environmental audit together with your detailed plans under the headings of environment, infrastructure, and housing all of which are of particular relevance in a Tidy Town context.

It is often difficult to motivate the larger centres but the time that Tipperary Town has spent on its planning and on ensuring a widespread support, involvement and engagement by the community at large, will undoubtedly yield substantial dividends as the years progress.

Please ensure that you continue to involve the wider community in your plans and especially in their implementation. There are ongoing and extensive activities taking place in Tipperary Town, not least the whole new Rossmore village being constructed.

The town has many delightful shop fronts and these are very much a feature and very largely, have been well presented. Strong, vibrant colours can be difficult to handle but this has been done with panache and success in Tipperary Town. The Credit Union building for example is a fine statement of present day construction. Despite the obvious extent of new buildings, it is pleasant to record that attention has also been lavished on traditional buildings and structures, by way of example, we would cite the fine stone wall of the former barracks on Railway Road. In taking a long term overview however, do not neglect smaller items, for example the attention that is required and was referred to last years report in respect of The Charles Kickam Plinth.

The Built Environment:

As mentioned Tipperary Town has a significant range and extent of imposing, traditional buildings and colourful shop fronts. Very largely these have been splendidly presented and contribute significantly to an overall excellent vista. An exception however is the former Garda Barracks, which is looking increasingly forlorn and the grounds of it are showing obvious signs of neglect. It is visually such an important building, apart from its obvious historic and cultural significance, that hopefully an appropriate and suitable use for it will be found without too much delay. The present Garda Barracks was well presented but the seat to the front is beginning to unravel which detracts from the overall strength of presentation. St Michaels Church continues to be a splendid and imposing edifice while the new Government Buildings for the Agricultural Department are a significant addition to the town. It is equipped with flag poles but no flags were flying on the day of adjudication. The succession of school buildings and commercial buildings on the Dundrum Road were uniformly well presented. The grounds of the Church of Ireland are being very well maintained. New buildings are in many cases very well presented, Tipperary Print & Design, Vaughan's while the splendid, original, cut stone entrance gate at Tipperary Autocare is a pleasant feature and worth retaining. The practice of colourful murals is quite a feature, that at Corny's Pub and especially at Danny Ryan's Music Shop caught the eye. Donovan's, number 59, had a most imposing shop front. Hopefully the very interesting pictures over the shopfront will shortly receive attention. Churchwell Tavern and Kickam House are also well presented. A splendid traditional shopfront is that of Blackburn Hardware featuring, increasingly rare, porcelain lettering.

Landscaping:

Tipperary has extensive open spaces and these are being well maintained and suitably presented. We welcome the decision to undertake the rejuvenation of the Bandstand in Redmond Square which is currently looking somewhat tired. The treatment of the weeping willow at the junction of Emmet Street and Dillon Street is absolutely a joy as is the fine planting at the entrance to the Sean Tracey Swimming Pool car park. In general the extensive grassed areas were well presented with a few being an absolute delight particularly the grassed areas opposite the new Government Buildings which, because of the well tended grass and suitable tree planting is a delightful oasis. The planting at and outside St Michaels Boys & Girls School, accentuating the cut stone surrounds was noted with satisfaction. The tree planting and the grass verges at Ailbe Street similarly caught the eye. While ground planting is always to be preferred, judicious use has been made of hanging baskets which also have their contribution to make to the overall vista.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river area, Tipperary Hills and the extensive grassed areas in estates and elsewhere all provide potential for very suitable wildlife habitat locations. The excellent publication *Wildlife and The Tidy Towns Award* is a splendid manual detailing how best to proceed especially having regard to the creation of the all important food chain starting with, for example, nettles leading to butterflies and in turn leading to birds and other suitable wildlife. It is obvious that the town is very much on the right track in planning, long term for the development of a suitable and integrated wildlife program. The presence of the Glen of Aherlow Nature Park is a distinct advantage. Again however do not overlook the minor items, as the Kickham Monument Plinth, the sign on the Glen of Aherlow Road for the Nature Park is itself in need of washing at least and perhaps refurbishing as well. The tree planting on Aherlow Road is a delight while the extensive open grassed areas at St Michaels Avenue were very appropriately presented.

Could a specific area in the extensive Tipperary Hills be set aside for a suitable wildlife habitat, perhaps with interpretive devices to add additional interest.

Litter Control:

Tipperary is a large town and having regard to its size and the population, it has acquitted itself quite well in the litter aspect of the competition. There were a number of fallings from grace and these tended to be concentrated in the busier, commercial streets. Back streets and especially car parks also had their disagreeable quota of litter. In general however there appeared to be an increasing community wide awareness of the litter problem. An increasing number of litter bins and receptacles, perhaps funded by commercial sponsorship, is recommended especially in car parking areas.

Tidiness:

This aspect of the competition is in many ways a "catch all" category where attention to a myriad of little matters collectively make for a sizeable impact. Without exception all the schools, the school yards and the areas in the vicinity of the schools were neat, orderly and well presented. Some weeds were noted at the base of walls at the convent however. Premises currently unoccupied and awaiting refurbishment or use by another commercial undertaking are very often not well presented and are strong negative aspects in some streets. Equally signs, particularly plastic, relating to companies no longer active or indeed broken should be removed wherever possible. Individual buildings can also detract, noticeably the ESB Substation on the Dundrum Road.

Other places would benefit from simply sweeping the street or pavement to remove spoil, weeds and loose shale. In other cases the problems are less simple of solution. The number of houses for example on the Limerick Road looked very tired and in need of painting and general repairs. Commercial premises can sometimes themselves detract by an inappropriate display of their goods for sale. A shining example of how best to present items is in Joe's Garden, which was a joy. The entrance to the Golf Club and the area leading towards to the Glen of Aherlow was exemplary.

Residential Areas:

The centre secures a very high mark under this category and deservedly so. Splendid houses on the Cashel Road, where there continues to be extensive work in progress, help set the standard and the scene. The courageous use of vibrant colours, so much a feature of Tipperary continues and is applauded. St Michaels Avenue, for example, is particularly pleasing. St Patricks Avenue has many individually splendid houses and collectively looked very well. The integration of splendid gardens contributed substantially to an overall good vista. Lacy's Villas equally were very well presented while on Michaels Street splendid individual houses were noted. Murgasta Road also had its collection of very fine homes while the traditional style houses on James Street, closing the view as you approached from the Post Office Square were particularly striking. St Marian's Terrace was very well painted and the house colour was echoed on the tops of the front facing walls which were delightfully free of weeds and litter.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

In general the approach roads to Tipperary are well presented. Pride of place must go to the truly beautiful road leading to the Glen of Aherlow. Speed limit sign here, 30mph, are fresh and well presented. We applaud the existence of street name signs on virtually every street throughout the town. This is very much better than the average in other towns and we feel sure our appreciation is reflective of every visitor who stops. The splendid wide and well maintained verge on the Cahir Road is an absolute joy and compliments to all involved in this very fine presentation. On the Limerick approach the 40mph and the sign proclaiming twinning with Parthenay, France was very well presented. Sadly the 30mph and especially the poles here were very much below par. The signage on the Donohill, Cappawhite Road and especially the pole holding both signs and the Raparee Drive are very much below par. A splendid rubble stone wall on this approach road is unravelling and richly deserves attention as it is potentially a splendidly fine wall. The fine new park installed on the Cashel Road helps to present a very neat and orderly approach to the town from that direction.

General Impression:

Tipperary Town has really entered into the full spirit of the Tidy Towns Movement and their careful planning, structured program and success to date all augur well for their future involvement and increasing success in the Tidy Towns Movement. Everyone involved in this exciting and successful presentation are applauded and we look forward, with interest to further successes in the years to come.