

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Silvermines**

Ref: **468**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **248**

Category: **B**

Date: **08/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	39	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	26
Litter Control	40	32	33
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>245</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Silvermines Enhancement Group is certainly a large one, with twelve on the committee! You appear to have a high level of local support and a strong working relationship with FAS and North Tipperary County Council. Your work in relation to developing a play area is to be commended, as is your hope to make the old mine area more accessible by introducing footpaths in this location. Do you have a Work Programme? If so, it should be submitted with each year's entry to the competition. If not, you should put together a "plan of campaign". This document need only be two or three pages long, outlining your plans for the village's future and setting an intended completion date for these. You will find it of immense benefit as the years go by, in order to see how you have progressed.

### The Built Environment:

The modern church is the focal point for the village - it looked as well as ever in its elevated location, terminating the axis of Main Street. Hickey's looked well presented as did Ryan's, but its plastic sign should be replaced by one of a more traditional timber variety. The National School looked very fresh although staining was apparent to the adjacent Hand Ball Alley, which should be attended to before next year's competition. T. O'Ciardha's is an attractive traditional shopfront which should be restored to its former glory. The retention of original features such as timber sash windows and rendered facade is important in these situations.

## **Landscaping:**

The attractive Riverside Park area was admired and well maintained on the day. The metal miner sculpture on the main road is settling well into its new home. The landscaped area by the church was admired - its timber fencing had been attended to since last year's First Round comments. The attractive timber litter bins were noted and admired. Attractive landscaping was appealing opposite Aras Adhrain - although it did not appear that the comments made in relation to this in last year's report had yet been taken on board! The attractive tubs and mature lime trees marching up Main Street looked well. Cluain Mhuire Park was maintained to a high standard. The area in front of the Hall is ripe for a potential landscaping project.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The wildlife board in the park area beside the church looked well although perhaps a hand painted one could be considered? You could possibly get the local school children involved in order to paint their interpretation the wildlife in the locality. The wildlife habitat area was fenced in but perhaps an information board would be possible at the village end of this area. Another board was noticed at the landscaped area by the riverside. Your nature trail is a marvellously worthwhile initiative.

## **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day could have been better. Although only a single plastic bag was noted by the metal nameplate on the Limerick side of the village, a light scattering was evident along the main street. Other problem areas were the landscaped park area by the Church - despite the presence of attractive timber litter bins, a great deal of litter was evident at the viewing area and more spotted at the recycling facility. Your application for new litter bins from the County Council was noted.

## **Tidiness:**

A broken wall by the Miner sculpture should be repaired and a minor outbreak of weeds was evident to the kerbing beyond. The recycling area was a quite neat, although its bins should be kept washed on a regular basis, as they appeared quite grubby. Timber fencing throughout was well maintained. Do ensure that you screen untidy yard areas from public view.

## **Residential Areas:**

Your plans to landscape the new housing estate is laudable. This estate fits in well to the village due to the topography Silvermines - it meanders down the hill nicely! However, the open spaces had yet to be worked upon, although the NDP boards were noted in this location. Some individual houses on the Dublin Road were newly constructed - do ensure that any new houses are suitably finished in terms of their materials and landscaping, in order that they fit into the existing rural fabric. A grubby boundary on this road created a bad impression. The attractive house beside the Church looked very well.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Both the Dublin and Limerick Roads looked well, with their neatly maintained hedgerows and verges. Do be aware of bird nesting times in this regard. The elaborately designed limestone nameplates at all entrances to the village are unusual and created a good sense of welcome. The road to the viewing area had been recently re-surfaced.

## **General Impression:**

Silvermines is a most attractive village with a fascinating history. It continues to be maintained to a

high standard and is being developed in a way that respects its unique mining heritage.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

Silvermines is an unusual village in that it has a lot of space – wide streets and much open space around such areas as the Church and School. The 2nd round adjudicator supports the call of the 1st round adjudicator for your 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for Silvermines. The Iron man is a beautiful sculpture and so appropriate. A new building was noted under development directly behind the sculpture area. Hopefully the outside wall of this building backing on to this area will be finished sympathetically in terms of colour and texture.

On the Limerick approach road little recent work appears to have been carried out on public verge areas. On the Nenagh approach to Silvermines the long white wall on the left hand side of the road is in need of painting. It is a big feature on this approach and colour choice here is important. The grass had not been taken away from some verge cutting on the right hand side on this approach road. The T. O'Ciarda derelict property on the Main Street retains some of its traditional character and hopefully a new use will be found for the building that will preserve these features.

Unfortunately litter was a feature of Silvermines on 2nd round adjudication day. Litter was noted at the School, quite a lot at the Bring Centre, and especially on the Cuan Mhuire road where weed growth is also a problem. Litter was bad at the Viewing Point.