

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Templemore**

Ref: **307**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **209**

Category: **C**

Date: **29/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	42
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	16	16
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>209</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Templemore Tidy Towns Committee seems to have a good working relationship with the Urban District Council and the Lions Club. The inclusion of non-committee members in your weekly tidying campaign is admirable. Do you have a work programme? If so it should be included with your submission next year. If not, then you really should formulate one in order that you can monitor your progress as the years go by. Many thanks for your map which was most useful on the day but it should include more of the town. It only concentrated on the central area, therefore, a map that included the outskirts of the town would have been very useful on the day. For next year perhaps you could also enclose a detailed map of your proposals for the Square when these have been completed.

### The Built Environment:

There are some fine modern buildings in Templemore, such as new building at the Garda Training College, the car showrooms and the Medical Centre on Bank Street. The latter is a good example of how a modern building can be integrated into an existing terrace and vernacular streetscape. The Garda Training College looked well and attractive hanging baskets and window boxes were noted at the AIB. The Courthouse was very fresh but don't forget to paint the copings and the canopies, as these looked a little shabby on the day. Tom Maher's Inn looked very well, with its original doors and windows, as did Mocklers Pharmacy with its bay trees each side of the front door. Kennedy's is another attractive traditional shopfront which was being painted on the day. The national school

looked quite fresh and well maintained, although its boundary wall needs to be painted before next year's competition. Polly's Pub, as mentioned last year, looked extremely fresh. There were a number of traditional fabric awnings which were in use on the day and the retention of traditional sash windows and features were apparent to a number of buildings which is highly laudable. Do ensure that the render is not removed from traditional vernacular street buildings as this is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view but can lead to problems with water penetration as the stonework was not constructed to be exposed to the elements. The Garda Station on the Square and the Post Office both looked extremely fresh. Do discourage plastic projecting beer signs. The Town Hall looked well with its unusual onion dome and hanging baskets outside. The Catholic Church and Church of Ireland both looked well. Planting was noted to the schools on the Rathdowney Road - perhaps some more could be considered within the school grounds themselves? The boundary wall to Grey's funeral home was a little stained and the school railings at College Hill appeared a little rusty and should be looked at before next year's competition.

### **Landscaping:**

Plans for the main Square are still under discussions with the UDC, Tidy Towns Committee and local traders. Hopefully this will be resolved before next year's competition and if so - or even if not - do include your plan for this area in your submission. Currently there are a number of attractive trees in the Square which are coming along well and define the car parking spaces. The large park was well maintained and its sign was being repaired on the day, as was the picket fence to playground. It is a well used park with its lake, which was being used for fishing on the day - the stands for disabled anglers are admirable. Flowers had been planted in beds and planters throughout the town - despite the major sewage works being conducted on the day and these gave a most cheerful appearance. The very attractive mature landscaping in the vicinity of the Garda Training College was admired, as was the planting at a number of road junctions. The bench outside the church was damaged and should be repaired. The graveyard looked well but its overhead barrier appeared a little rusty. Pairc Shileain - the GAA grounds were well maintained in the Town Park. In terms of future projects perhaps you could make more of your riverside and bridge areas?

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

You mentioned that you are planning a wildlife facility in the Town Park and have discussed with the Heritage Officer. What exactly is this proposal? There was much evidence of birdlife on the day, including the ducks and swans in the lake. The wildlife information board in the Park had been wiped down but unfortunately this had just created a smeared effect rather than cleaning it.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was a problem on the day, with a lot being evident in the Town Park and along its entrance laneway. There was a light scattering throughout the park itself. The set of large bins was noted with its signage saying "please keep the park litter free" - however, little attention was being paid to it! Perhaps instead of the large litter bins you could consider a number of smaller litter bins judiciously placed in different locations around the park - the pooper scooper was quite full, as it was being used for litter so perhaps this proves the point? More litter was evident in the vicinity of the school, on Railway Road and at Greenwood Bridge. Perhaps a more frequent litter collection is required?

### **Tidiness:**

Although on first impressions the bring banks looked quite neat - closer inspection revealed dumping behind them - perhaps this is not the best of locations and the adjudicator wonders where they are being moved to under your new plan? John Maher's on the Square is a quite charming front but in need of restoration work - the retention of its sash windows would be essential in this regard. Weed control was a problem at the kerbs on the Roscrea Road and also on the Rathdowney Road. The stone wall should be repaired in a number of locations along the former. Graffiti was evident on the laneway to the park - it appeared quite political in nature - presumably this is due to its proximity to

the Garda Station? Dumping of construction materials was evident to a single storey building beyond the GAA grounds behind a green pallisade fence. It had evidently been there for some time, as it was a quite weedy. A rough area in front of the Railway Station appeared to be just a wasteland and looked most unfortunate.

### **Residential Areas:**

Houses on the Roscrea Road were very fresh - those with their original railings were particularly admired. There were some magnificently landscaped new houses in the vicinity of the Church of Ireland and a charming house opposite was being work on on the day. The estate beyond the Town Park looked well and the attractive planting at the Demesne B&B was greatly admired. On the Rathdowney Road, there was attractive planting to a new housing estate and the magnificent tree lined Church Avenue was greatly admired and is a fine asset to have in the town.

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

The Thurles Road looked well with neatly cut grass verges and attractive planting at the junction. However, directional signs were a little rusty as was the Children Crossing sign. The Roscrea Road was very overgrown, behind a timber rail fence by the town nameplate. However, the attractive planting at the welcome sign was admired. The Rathdowney Road was fine, but the road to Tipperary Glass was very overgrown - so much so that the signage including the welcome sign and nameplate were quite unreadable.

### **General Impression:**

The busy town of Templemore looked extremely well on the day despite the high level of construction work taking place, particularly in terms of the sewage works. It is continuing to make steady progress in the competition and was a pleasure to re-visit after a number of years. Well done to all concerned on the high standards achieved.