

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Thurles**

Ref: **396**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **219**

Category: **E**

Date: **28/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	32	30
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	219	216

Overall Developmental Approach:

As suggested by last year's adjudicator have you considered the idea of dividing up into sub committees in order to divide up the work that you need to do? Many thanks for your plan of the town which was most useful on adjudication day. However, the adjudicator was disappointed to note that you still have not put together a work programme - or if you have you did not submit it. It was reassuring to note your high level of practical and financial assistance from residents groups, as well as the support of the Town Council and local businesses.

The Built Environment:

MJ Bowe's was quite fresh, the Kosy Kitchen was very fresh, Duggan's Newsagents with its attractive timber signage, Minogue's, Frewell's and Susan's next door and the Toy Box all looked well. The charming train station was well maintained as was the garda station. Do ensure that if there are murals to gable walls that they are maintained as if not they can get quite shabby. There were a number of modern buildings in the village centre which looked well such as the new Regional Arts Centre which is under construction and should be magnificent in its riverside location, the Tipperary Institute and Stakelums. The schools on the Dublin Road looked well although Scoil Mhuire looked a little patchy. The magnificent romanesque cathedral looked well as did St. Patrick's College and Knox Hall. Do ensure that the render is not removed from traditional vernacular street buildings as their stonework was not intended to be exposed and can lead to problems of water penetration as well as being incorrect from a conservation

point of view.

Landscaping:

New trees were admired on the Holycross Road. The monuments on Liberty Square were generally well maintained although the simple modern fountain in centre was quite green and should be washed. Some attractive planting at road junctions were admired such as that in the vicinity of the garda station. The roundabout at Dunnes Stores shopping centre looked very cheerful with its geraniums and hanging baskets. Erin Foods looked well with attractive well maintained grounds although its boundary wall was in need of some attention as was that to the golf course with its castellations in its blockwork wall - would it be possible to paint this wall? Attractive hanging baskets were noted in a number of locations but were not overdone - those at Minogue's were admired. Foyle Park looked most unfortunate however - it was thoroughly overgrown and appeared to be being used for drinking sessions - even at eleven in the morning! The riverside walk leading down to it however, was well maintained with well cut grass verges which were left longer beyond. New trees had been planted in this vicinity and the jets of water at the bridge were admired. The Tipperary Institute sports some well maintained grounds which contributes strongly to this category of the competition.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Ducks and swans and lily pads were noted on the River Suir which was being cleaned up on the day. Your walk along the Horse and Jockey Road and in the vicinity of the bridge is to be commended. Do involve local school children in formulating future projects in this category of the competition. They could be involved in such projects as wild flower gardens, the building of bat and bird boxes and feeding tables or indeed wildlife surveys. Consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for some ideas in this category of the competition.

Litter Control:

Unfortunately a light scattering of litter was apparent throughout the town and on approach roads such as the Dublin Road. Litter was a distinct problem at the car park of the shopping centre and quite a lot was evident along the riverside walk although it was being picked up on the day. Perhaps you could consider a more frequent collection service for litter bin emptying.

Tidiness:

Weed control was a problem at a number of kerbsides on the Holycross Road, on the Two Mile Borris Road and one boundary along the Horse and Jockey Road, particularly at the entranceway to a house that appeared abandoned during construction as a pile of gravel was evident in this location. Damage to a wall at the Esso station was being repaired on the day in stone on the Holycross Road. Do discourage advertising hoardings, there are a number in the centre of town and along the Dublin Road. Do ensure that Christmas decorations are removed once the season is over! Dumping was evident to the recycling facility at the Parnell Street car park. The boundary wall and railings of the bus station should be painted up before next year's competition. One or two derelict buildings on Croke Street looked unfortunate as did graffiti to the walls at the riverside walk.

Residential Areas:

Some of the housing estates on the Holycross Road were admired such as Ard na Criose and a brightly coloured one further along this road. An attractive garden behind a concrete post and rail fence on the Cashel Road was admired. The new housing estate at Rosemount with its stone entrance way and raised grass beds created a good impression. Hazelwood on the Dublin Road looked well as did a large limestone marker which announced a number of housing estates on this road. Some charming houses with interesting plasterwork were noted opposite the church. An attractive garden at the roundabout opposite the shopping centre was admired with its gravel

garden filled with lavender. Another attractive housing estate on the Holycross Road was admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Holycross Road had an attractive welcome sign and grassy bank but it did appear quite overgrown. An attractive landscaped area with cobbles either side and relatively new trees and rosebeds was admired. Banking along the Cashel Road was noted but didn't appear to have taken as yet as it appeared quite weedy with no grass evident. Do develop laneways and archways such as Old Baker Street - which now forms a new shopping street with new paving. Also be aware of new car parking areas created in the centre of the town such as that at Parnell Street - the fact that you can now see the backs of buildings along the main streets and therefore their presentation is of importance. Along the Dublin Road weeds were apparent at kerbsides in one or two locations but besides this it was quite neat. Weed control was also a problem on the Nenagh Road and the Roscrea Road appeared quite overgrown where a pile of spoil or abandoned building materials created a bad impression.

General Impression:

Thurles is a busy and vibrant centre which has made good progress over the years in the competition. Do concentrate on problem areas as outlined in this report. Good luck with your future work.