

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cahir**

Ref: **615**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **223**

Category: **D**

Date: **18/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>218</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Cahir Development Association put together an excellent submission for this year's entry to the competition, giving the adjudicators plenty of information. You obviously have a proud awareness of the town's unique heritage including such elements as the Mall, Cahir Castle, the Swiss Cottage Orne and the Cistercian Abbey. Your plans in relation to the provision of a sensory garden and general landscaping in the town are to be commended. Future work on the Mall and the Swiss Walk enhancement are also looked forward to with eager anticipation. Your five year plan, heritage booklet and wildlife booklet all made very interesting reading. Your work in relation to bilingual signage is also to be commended. The adjudicator was disappointed to hear about your problems in relation to the vandalism of the heritage walk signs. It is a scandal that people should behave in such a way when others show such a level of care and interest in the town's future and indeed past! Your photographs showing the before and after shots of work to the rear of Cahir House Hotel were most clever. You appear to have a high level of support from local businesses including the local garden centres giving you generous discounts for your work.

### The Built Environment:

Cahir is indeed fortunate in having its fine heritage of buildings from Cahir Castle to the Swiss Cottage to the marvellous houses of the Mall. The Train Station itself looked fine and it is a charming building. However, its windows appeared quite rusty on the day and should be attended to and the side garden area was quite overgrown. All of the churches looked well including the Church of

Ireland and the Presbyterian Church -which was charming and simply presented. The old church and graveyard looked well and restoration work was underway to the castle. The Granary Inn looked quite fresh and the use of the old granary building as a craft shop is a commendable achievement. Do discourage the use of plastic signage and encourage its replacement with ones of a more traditional timber variety. The Cahir House Hotel in its prominent location on the Square looked well, although there were a number of patchy stains to the facade. Its attractive limestone detailing around the windows and doors was admired. Fleury Antiques looked well in its prominent location on the Square, as did the Bank of Ireland. The AIB bank was also freshly presented, as was Tinsley House B&B. The Co-op looked fine, as did the Garda Station and Day Care Centre with its attractive hanging baskets. However, additional landscaping could be considered in this location as it looked quite bare as did the Catholic Church next door. Kennedy's Butcher's was admired for its traditional lettering and traditional fabric awning. The adjudicator was pleased to note the replacement of the windows with new traditional timber sash windows and was interested to note that the sign-writing was a copy of the original letters on the property. The Galtee Inn next door also looked extremely well with its simple raised lettering.

### **Landscaping:**

Some areas where additional landscaping could be considered have been mentioned previously. There is also the potential for some very interesting landscape projects at the various petrol stations on approach roads and at the car showrooms. The numerous hanging baskets on the main streets hanging from the lamp posts gave a cheerful appearance. The attractive floral display on Square looked well. This area is well landscaped in terms of hard landscaping also. It forms a very pleasant composition with its four mature trees, colourful pansies and stone monument. The colourful displays of flowers outside the old church looked well and the landscaping outside IFAC Accountants was also admired. The marvellous display of various rose bushes on a raised stone bed was a great surprise. The adjudicator was interested to read about your soft landscaping plans for the Castle car park and the replacement of trees along the Mall and at Leacha. The sensory garden will also be a fine asset for the town. Good luck with all your future plans.

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

You have conducted a great deal of work under this heading in terms of the Millenium Nature Walks. Your work in relation to research and seeking advise on the siting of bird and bat boxes is to be commended. The involvement of the transition year students at Colaiste Dun Iascaigh is also to be commended. You have also shown a great deal of care and detail in relation to your wildlife boards, in that you are concerned to make them realistic without being frightening - showing the dangers that can befall animals due to littering! There are a number of wildlife protection areas within the town which is highly commendable. Magnificent wild flower displays were evident at roundabouts and along approach roads.

### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day was reasonably good given the size of the town and its busy nature. A single bottle was evident on the Dublin Road, some more papers were evident on the Clonmel Road, getting more frequent further in to the town. A number of papers were also evident along the main streets of the town. Your work in relation to assigning certain areas for the local children to maintain is a marvellous initiative. Perhaps a little more vigilance is required!

### **Tidiness:**

Discourage the use of advertising hoardings as they can give approach roads and town centres a very cluttered appearance particularly if they are damaged. A double one, in particular, on the Dublin approach road looked appalling as it was torn, flaky and shredded. The Mart area looked reasonably neat given its nature. A little dumping was noted at the bring centre on the Dublin side of the town. Christmas decorations were still evident on Burke's Ironworks and the Vivo Garage and should be removed once the season is finished! Perhaps some screening could be considered at the

ESB sub-station site on the Clonmel Road. The adjudicator was as excited as yourselves to read about the underground bottle banks as this was something that was new to them! Weed control was a problem at kerbsides on the Clogheen Road and along Main Street in places. Do consider archways and alleyways when looking at the overall presentation of the town.

### **Residential Areas:**

One or two boundary walls on the Dublin approach road were in need of attention. However, an attractive garden on this road was also admired. College Court looked well as did Birch Dale. Verges at the entrance to Butler Court were extremely overgrown and weedy. Highfield Estate looked extremely well. More new houses were being built on the Clonmel Road. There were a number of well presented houses on the Cork Road. Do ensure that gables are painted when considering overall presentation, as these can be very visible as one is travelling through the town.

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

The Dublin approach road appeared quite overgrown and grass verges were in need of cutting. The Clonmel Road was maintained to a higher standard, with relatively new trees coming along well. However, weeds were evident below. Hedgerows had been cut back - do bear in mind bird nesting times in relation to this, in order to ensure they are not disturbed. New street lighting appeared to be going in along this road. The Cork Road affords the visitor a magnificent view of the Castle. However, the signage along this road was quite grubby and virtually obscured by overgrowth. Directional signs on the Clogheen Road were also very grubby. The Mall is a most attractive asset to have in the town and your work in relation to encouraging people to travel along it is a good one as, at the moment, the main majority of pedestrian traffic travels from the Castle up to the Square.

### **General Impression:**

Cahir is a most attractive and busy town whose residents show an obvious pride in its appearance and presentation. It was a pleasure for this adjudicator to visit for the first time - having only ever by-passed it previously en route to Cork!