

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cashel**

Ref: **584**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **200**

Category: **D**

Date: **20/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	200	197

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator was disappointed to note that you appeared not to have formulated a three or five year work programme, as none was submitted with your application. It is essential at this stage in the competition, especially in a town of Cashel's size, that you put together a work outlining your plans for the town's future. This should indicate areas where improvements can be made and setting a timeframe against their achievement. Very little information was forthcoming in your application form either. Your map was very useful on the day, but again you should have indicated areas within the town where improvements had been made - or indeed where you had problem areas. Your Heritage Tourist Trail is certainly very interesting.

The Built Environment:

The Tourist Information Office in the Old Market House looked very attractive if a little dusty on the day! The joinery should be repainted, as should the plasterwork. The Cashel Palace Hotel and grounds looked very well in their central location. The single storey social welfare office in stone looked well. There are a number of modern buildings within the town such as the new solicitors office - Ryan's, the Town Council offices in limestone and the modern Library building behind. It is heartening to see the use of modern design. However, just ensure that the fine stock of existing traditional buildings is not lost. It is important that vernacular buildings in Irish towns and villages do not remove the plaster or render to their facades. This is crucial from a conservation point of

view, as well as a practical point of view. These traditional buildings were intended to be rendered, stonework was not meant to be exposed - therefore it can lead to problems with water penetration, as well as being incorrect from a conservation point of view. There was a large green premises in the centre of the village which looked quite neglected - this appeared to have been abandoned. The adjacent house also looked somewhat neglected. The Post Office is a charming early modern building and the Garda Station looked well - this is a fine composition of buildings at Commandant P.J. Hogan's Square. Davern's looked very fresh in red and the Festival Hall was very bright and cheerful. Pat Fox's was also admired. St. Patrick's Hospital and grounds looked well. Do discourage the practice of plastic signs and encourage their replacement with ones of a more traditional timber variety. The stone Catholic Church looked quite magnificent, with its glorious rich mosaics at the pediment and elsewhere on the facade. Bohan Scolr is another fine piece of traditional heritage. Feehan's is a lovely traditional shop front in its prominent location.

Landscaping:

There is some sensitive landscape treatment at the new mixed use development of Dominick's Court, with its new paving and new trees in their gravel beds to the Old Abbey wall. The stone retaining wall on the Cork Road with its snapdragons growing through it looked most attractive. There are good incidental landscaped spaces throughout the town. A rosebed on the Clonmel Road junction was admired. There were numerous planters sponsored by local businesses, which is to be commended, these were filled with petunias. The attractive landscaping to the industrial estate on the Cork Road was admired with its attractive stone entrance. The other industrial premises on this road could follow this good example. The cottage garden to Granny's Kitchen adjacent to the Rock was most effective. The magnificent fountain in the centre of the town was admired, although was not in working order on the day and litter was found in it. The gable wall behind appeared very grubby. The school has well maintained grounds and some attractive planting opposite the Community School was admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator was very disappointed to note that you had left this section of your application form completely blank! As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, wildlife is important even in a town situation. Have you pursued the suggestion made to call on the services of the wildlife officer? You should also consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas for furthering this category of the competition. The involvement of local school children should also be considered.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day could have been better, although was not too bad given the size of Cashel and its busy nature. Problem areas were the Cork Road, the Dublin Road in front of the Esso Station and in the vicinity of fast food outlets. Rubbish was, unfortunately, dumped in the fountain on Main Street and more litter appeared at the large bend in the Dublin Road in the vicinity of Spearman's Tearooms and the Bookshop. A number of litter bins need attention before next year's competition. However, the adjudicator was pleased to note street sweeping taking place on the day.

Tidiness:

Rubbish had been dumped at the recycling bins on the Clonmel Road. Are these the only recycling facilities in the town? The adjudicator failed to come across any others and none were indicated on your map. These ones should be screened in some way in order to blend them in somewhat with their surroundings - at the moment they appear to have been almost just dropped there! An empty site beside Brian Fogerty's on the Clonmel Road looked unfortunate - is it going to be developed? There are a number of properties with planning notices erected on them. Do ensure that you maintain and retain the good examples of remarkable heritage that the town has. There are a

number of buildings in bad condition. That on the Main Street has been mentioned previously, and a building on the opposite side of the laneway to the County Council Offices was also in bad condition with broken windows - hopefully this will be improved upon in the not too distant future, as a planning notice was in position. The pharmacy near Supervalu was missing some of its signage, which should be replaced before next year's competition. Do discourage advertising hoardings, there is an extremely torn and flaky one on the gable wall of the dentist's. This building is also in need of painting up before next year's competition - at the moment it appeared extremely flaky.

Residential Areas:

Housing estates throughout could be improved upon. Perhaps you could consider forming residents associations and organising inter-estate competitions in order to get some healthy rivalry going! B&Bs on approach roads contribute well to this aspect of the competition - for example Copperfield House with its magnificent garden, Legends Townhouse and Restaurant with its colourful displays and the Bailey Guesthouse on Main Street with its attractive planting. The terraced houses on the Clonmel Road looked quite colourful and cheerful. A most attractive house opposite Beauty by Laura was admired for its simplicity of presentation with its planted beds to the front and hanging baskets of nasturtiums which were yet to come into full bloom. The attractive new houses behind the library were also admired as were some attractive ones on the Dualla Road.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Cork Road looked well with well cut grass verges. The Clonmel Road was fine with well maintained grass verges and a magnificent view of the Rock! There were some well maintained green spaces on the Thurles/Holycross Road. However, one of the banner type signs appeared damaged - the weld of its frame appeared to have failed on it. Weeds, however, were apparent on the kerbsides and the kerb itself was broken in places. A large hill of spoil was apparent on the Dublin Road - is this from work at the by-pass? The footpath which passes through the grass verges appeared quite weedy. All in all this road appeared quite patchy in its presentation. The old limestone slabs and kerbs in the centre of town were greatly admired and should be maintained. A number of alleyways and archways had been well presented look well - it is important not to neglect these when considering overall presentation, as a number of them were not to the same standard. Do consider implementing a modern art or sculpture programme for the new roundabouts which are in place due to the new by-pass.

General Impression:

Cashel is a very busy town with plenty to offer the visitor and tourist in terms of its unique and special heritage. There is a large amount of development taking place. Do ensure that this does not take away from its unique character. Be sure to formulate a three to five year programme for your submission next year.