

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonmel**

Ref: **155**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **244**

Category: **F**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	43
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	29	30
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	244	241

Overall Developmental Approach:

Your tidy towns request form is certainly a clever idea and would appear to be a subtle way of achieving your objectives. It was reassuring to hear that your Flood Relief Scheme has started. The bilingual signposts are a good initiative, as is your Heritage Trail with its associated signage and maps. There would appear to be less dereliction in the town than on previous occasions over the last number of years. Your work in relation to the Railway Station is to be commended and no doubt your close working relationship with Iarnrod Eireann and Tipperary County Council will pay dividends in this regard. You would appear to have a very good working relationship with your local Residents Associations which can only be of benefit to both parties concerned. Your inclusion of Rehab trainees on your committee is another highly commendable achievement.

The Built Environment:

The Garda Station looked quite fresh and the Post Office was well presented. Main Guard is a fine example of restoration work, in that what was known to be a correct detail and style was used where known and new work has been clearly distinguished either by using modern style or by using distinguishing marks such as those used on the large circular limestone columns. Again modern windows were used in a sympathetic style as research failed to reveal what the original windows would have looked like. Clonmel is indeed fortunate in terms of its wealth of historic buildings and traditions. Work is required to the old County Museum building on Parnell Street which, at the moment, looks quite neglected. The West Gate looked well, as did all of the churches in the town, in

particular St. Peter and Paul's on Gladstone Street. Fennessy's is an attractive shopfront of historical significance with its metal stork on the ridge and characterful mural explaining its historical significance. There are a number of empty properties with planning notices which will, no doubt, be developed in the not too distant future. A number still have their traditional timber sash windows which is to be commended and hopefully these will be retained in any restoration work that is taking place. Gaelscoil Cluain Mhuire looked well and there is a good use of national language throughout the town. Clarke's looked very fresh in bright red and yellow and the AIB Bank looked quite imposing. Weeds were apparent to some facades, such as that of the Ulster Bank. Dunnes Stores was very fresh and Parke's was a charming old shopfront with its unusual curved window which would benefit from some sensitive restoration work.

Landscaping:

There is a good use of modern sculpture throughout the town and along approach roads particularly on roundabouts such as the marvellous Poppy Pods on the Moangarriff roundabout. There are a number of attractive incidental landscaped spaces throughout the town and colourful floral displays were evident at road junctions. Richard Mulcahy Park on the Waterford Road looked extremely well with its attractive entrance area and well maintained grounds. The timber children's playground looks like a positive assault course! It was well maintained, as was the well landscaped car park area with its stone beds filled with lavender to the front.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You are indeed fortunate in regard to your marvellous setting on the River Suir. Congratulations on your award from South Tipperary Natural Heritage in relation to the wildlife sanctuary at Wilderness Gorge. Your work at Lady Blessington's Bath in clearing the archways in this location is also laudable. This is all highly commendable work.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control was reasonably good given the size of the town and its busy nature. However, quite a lot of papers were evident on Parnell Street and at the Plaza area at the post office. More was apparent on Gladstone Street and at the entrance to the car park area to Mary Street. Congratulations on your detective work in relation to illegal dumping! Your Tidy Schools Award is an initiative that is to be commended.

Tidiness:

Generally the town had a quite neat and ordered appearance. However, weeds were apparent at the bases of trees on Parnell Street and to the gravelled area of the Friend's Burial Ground. Some dereliction was evident on Nelson Street to a number of properties. The Bring Centre at Mary Street car park was quite neat but abandoned boxes were apparent at the Kickham Street car park Bring Centre. Your work in relation to the surveying of these facilities is a very useful one.

Residential Areas:

Houses throughout the town and along approach roads generally looked well. The large number of housing estates are generally well cared for and your strong relationship with local residents associations has obviously paid off. Some attractive houses in the vicinity of the railway station were greatly admired. Anne Street is a marvellous asset to have so close to the town centre. Roughly 50% of them have retained their sash windows and if possible if work is going on in this location perhaps reinstating sash windows could be considered. Some of the houses on Morton Street looked very charming they were mostly in good condition although some were less well maintained. Some attractive houses in Emmet Street in the vicinity of the post office were admired as were the

magnificent houses along the quayside. Clonmel has a large catchment area of suburbs, of note being Abbey Meadows and the quite urban development of Ormonde Court. An attractive estate on the Limerick Road was admired with its grassy banks and inset colourful flowers.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Inner Relief Road was well presented, with well cut grass verges and longer grass filled with daisies behind. The Cork Road also looked extremely well. The fine initiative taken in terms of modern sculpture is to be commended. The Poppy Pods on the Waterford Road at the Moangarriff roundabout have been previously mentioned. The Youghal Road was not as well maintained as the others, unfortunately. The handpainted bunting spanning the streets in anticipation of the upcoming Arts Festival looked most cheerful. The streets of the town generally looked - the relatively new ash trees on O'Connell Street were coming along well.

General Impression:

Clonmel is a most attractive town with a wealth of architectural and historical heritage. Its towns people show an evident care in its presentation and appearance and this was quite evident on this visit to the town.

Second Round Adjudication:

Clonmel is a town with a great sense of history; a history that is visible for all to see. For a town of its size it has an important collection of heritage buildings – West Gate (one window missing), Franciscan Friary, St. Peter & Pauls Church, and the wonderfully restored Main Guard. Other building that caught the eye of your 2nd round adjudicator was the Town Hall (plastic windows are unfortunate) the Garda Barracks and D'Amigos. What a great pity that inappropriate large projecting signage is used here on this brick building with the three arches. The banner across the street is unfortunate. Some shop fronts look no somewhat out of date and need replacement or updating.

The view down Gladstone Street was especially noted. The mountain view at the end of this street effectively links the built urban environment firmly into the surrounding countryside.

On 2nd adjudication day there was a poor level of litter control in many areas. These included Gladstone Street where the situation was very bad, Emmet Street, Parnell Street near the roundabout, the outside basement area of the old County Museum building, Mitchell Street, The Quay, and a narrow opening off Bridge Street. In terms of the number of aged cigarette butts one cannot but wonder when some of the streets were last swept with a mechanical sweeper.

This adjudicator is not in favour of the display of retail goods on the pavement as was noted in a number of areas. Apart from looking rather untidy such displays can cause major difficulties for people in wheelchairs or the visually disabled.

Well done to everyone involved in the Clonmel Tidy Towns movement