

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Golden**

Ref: **316**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **219**

Category: **B**

Date: **17/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	219	216

Overall Developmental Approach:

Golden is an extremely busy village. Last year's adjudicator mentioned a village renewal plan which was being put in place by Tipperary South-Riding County Council. Unfortunately, you did not include this with your application, nor did you include a three to five year work programme of your own devising. The drafting of this document is important, as it will help you assess yourselves what work you need to do, help you to set a timeframe against achieving this work and be in a position to monitor your own progress as the years go by. The top area of the town looked well on the day but the lower area in the vicinity of the riverside deteriorated somewhat as you passed through the village.

The Built Environment:

The Coffee Dock and the Post Office look very fresh. Fogarty's was fine, as was the Golden Grill and Bridge House. Do ensure that if plaster or render is being removed from a property that this is correct from a conservation point of view. Generally vernacular buildings in Irish villages and towns were intended to be rendered. The removal of render is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view but can lead to problems with water penetration due to the fact that the stonework was never intended to be exposed to the elements! The adjudicator noted your fine work to the Garda Station which is situated in a terrace of three well presented properties. Spar looked fine. The Catholic Church looked extremely fresh in yellow up a side street off the main street. The pillars and

entranceway were freshly painted and the grounds and graveyard were well maintained. The Church of Ireland also looked well and the attractive plasterwork detail to the Cornerstone Pub was greatly admired.

Landscaping:

The old tower and monument to Thomas McDonagh are fine assets to have located so close to the village and the attractive and colourful rose beds to the monument were greatly admired. The attractive planting to the far side of the village beyond the bridge, with its roses and daisies was greatly admired. Daises on the Cashel Road were also admired, as was the bed at the junction with the cul-de-sac. Attractive planting was also noted outside the GAA pitch. The area at the upper end of the village with its timber furniture and bird table was well maintained. The park beside the castle ruin unfortunately looked quite neglected. The planted geraniums to the stone bed, however, were admired. Although there were gate piers in this location, the gates appeared not to have been erected or else, unfortunately, to have been removed. The park area on the far side of the road also looked quite neglected. This is a great pity as these areas were obviously well cared for at one stage in the recent past.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Bird tables were noted at a number of green open spaces. You mention your ducks and swans on the island and certainly evidence of this was noted on the day. Your provision to plant bird-friendly berried shrubs is highly commendable.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control, given the busy nature of the town, was quite good on the day. One problem area was rubbish dumped at a new house on the Cashel Road.

Tidiness:

A yard area with timber pallets should be screened off from public view. Dead weeds were evident on the New Inn Road. You mention your problem with vandalism, which is a dreadful shame, and hopefully this will resolve itself in the not too distant future. Dumping was evident at the bottle banks, as you correctly stated in your application. This again will hopefully be resolved before next year's competition. The surface of the car park area in this location should also be seen to. It was very weedy and somewhat littered to the slipway beside bridge, on the far side of the village, and also at the entranceway to the riverside walk, although the walk itself was well maintained. Abandoned properties at the bottom of Main Street beside the bridge looked unfortunate. Do be aware that the backs of properties are very prominent when one is traveling from the church back to the main street - a road which must be used quite a lot - therefore these areas should be presented as well as the fronts are. The attractive and unusual ridge tiles on the roofs of these buildings were admired. Building materials appeared to have been abandoned to the car park area and items such as these should be removed once construction work is complete.

Residential Areas:

There are a number of new and more established housing estates within the village. The attractive stone retaining wall with its planting at Ard Mhuire was admired, as was the charming cottage beside the bridge. A very grubby boundary wall on the Cashel Road created a bad impression, as did a flaky gable opposite the school at Pearse Park. There were a number of attractive stone walls on the Cashel Road and a very attractive house on this road was admired. There are a number of fine stone walls in this vicinity.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The attractive signage on the New Inn Road was admired. The grass verges had been cut and the attractive stone walling either side of the road was greatly admired. Signage for the River Suir was in bad condition and should be washed and repainted. The directional signs on the far side of the village were quite flaky and the yellow and black warning stripes on the bridge should be repainted before next year's competition. Signage at the centre of the village was also quite grubby but it would appear to this adjudicator that the problem of signage was in fact greater last year!

General Impression:

Golden is a village which has shown obvious care and interest in the previous years. However, this year on adjudication day it looked somewhat faded dusty and neglected. Good luck with your future work.