

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tipperary**

Ref: **323**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **193**

Category: **D**

Date: **22/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	
The Built Environment	40	27	
Landscaping	40	21	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	
Litter Control	40	27	
Tidiness	20	14	
Residential Areas	30	24	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	
General Impression	10	6	
TOTAL MARK	300	193	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Tipperary town is indeed fortunate in having so many co-operating groups working together, to create cross - community involvement! You appear to have a good working relationship with the relevant statutory bodies. Your mission statement to improve the quality of life for the residents of the town is a highly commendable one. Your plan, formulated by De Jong's, should be submitted with next year's application, in order that the adjudicator's can see what is proposed in this area. Your work in the region of Recycling and Waste disposal is commendable, in particular the promotion of subsidized composting bins. It is hoped that your grant from the County Council will be put to good use. Your submission was very clear and the adjudicator was pleased to hear about your Heritage Trail and your new website! Your proposal to reclaim empty sites for use as allotments is an excellent one.

The Built Environment:

Ronan's is a very charming traditional front, which maintains its original sash windows. Indeed many of the premises in the town have done this which is most laudable. The many churches of the town were well presented, especially the Catholic Church with its silver railings, the marvellous Church of Ireland and the Jehovah's Witnesses' Hall. There is a fine tradition of well painted murals to gable walls and most of these were in good condition, although one will need to be freshened up before next year's competition, on Carew's gable. Do try to ensure that render is not removed from vernacular buildings. These were traditionally meant to be rendered in finish and therefore the

removal of the plaster to reveal the stonework below, is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view but can also lead to water penetration problems. The adjudicator was disappointed to see that the unusual building adjacent to the Excel Arts and Cultural Centre was for sale and described as a development site! Is there any possibility that this can be restored to its former glory? Do ensure that Christmas lights are removed once the season is over, some were apparent on the main street. Some attractive traditional plasterwork was evident at O'Donnabhain's Night Owl Pub and its retention is commendable.

Landscaping:

There were a number of attractive incidental landscaped spaces throughout the town, such as the colourful snapdragons at the Waterford Road junction, in their stone plinth. The planted bed at the Motor Centre on the Waterford Road will need better maintenance, as it appeared quite weedy on the day. The trees outside the graveyard are maturing well. The attractive Markets area was visited and the adjudicator felt that there is scope for further development in relation to landscaping this area. The Memorial Fountain is attractive but was not working on the day, and the paving around it was quite weedy. There is scope for developing another incidental landscaped space at the junction of John Street and Church Street and the large open space by the Credit Union. Colourful flowers and the magnificent willow tree were admired at Dillon Street and sets a good standard in this regard. The restored bandstand area was well maintained. The attractive Maid of Erin monument dedicated to the Manchester martyrs looked well with its painted railings, gates and bollard outside but is it necessary to rail it in?

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your work in relation to this area of the competition is to be commended, in particular, encouraging people to visit Tipperary Hills and your work on the radio advising people on the promotion of wildlife in their area. Please consult your Tidy Towns Handbook in order to get ideas for furthering this aspect of the competition, in terms of projects which you can undertake yourselves.

Litter Control:

Litter control on the day could have been better. Quite a lot was evident along the main streets and in particular outside fast food outlets. More was apparent at the plinth of Charles Kickham's statue, at the Lidl car park, at the Waterford Road Junction, along the Bansha and Cashel roads, at the schools on the Cappaghwhite Road and on the Emly Road - particularly in the vicinity of the railway bridge. Your work in relation to your litter and art competition is to be commended but daily litter patrols, I'm afraid, are going to be vital at this stage in the competition and is something that you will have to implement.

Tidiness:

Dereliction was a problem particularly on the main streets. A derelict building diagonally opposite Carew's, and Adelaide House both created a bad impression. Weed control was a problem in a number of areas at car parks particularly that near the Waterford Road junction, at the stone planted bed at the corner of the Waterford Road, at the base of trees on the Cashel Road and around the fountain in the markets area. Graffiti was also a problem in this latter location. Don't forget outbuildings when considering overall presentation - an attractive industrial type premises with a curved roof by the Church of Ireland will need to be repainted in its traditional green colour, as will a similar outbuilding opposite. Do discourage the use of curved canopies and encourage their replacement with ones of a more traditional fabric awning type. Try to screen untidy yard areas from public view.

Residential Areas:

Some empty houses opposite the Waterford Road junction leading into town looked unfortunate.

Some charming cottages on the Cashel Road with hanging baskets were admired, as were their cottage gardens. New houses with stone boundary wall on the Cashel Road were admired. An entrance with attractive grassy banks to its shared open space on the Dundrum Road was admired and this estate was generally well presented. The attractive houses on St. Michael's Road were admired - particularly one at the Murgasty Road junction with its attractive and unusual wrought ironwork. Dillon Street was well maintained with attractive trees marching up either side of the street. Parnell Court is an attractive modern development with interesting stone and render details around the windows.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Waterford Road was well maintained with petunias and snapdragons in its stone planted beds. On the Cashel Road, however, weeds were evident at the kerbsides and the banks opposite the graveyard were quite overgrown. Weed control was also a problem on the Emly Road at kerbs, although a man was spotted cutting the grass verge directly outside his house on this road, which is highly commendable. The Stables Restaurant has maintained and developed its archway and laneway, with some attractive hard landscaping which is a fine example for other archways and laneways in the town to follow.

General Impression:

The busy town of Tipperary has a group of people working and acting on its behalf who have obviously every intention of trying to improve the quality of life for those living in it. However, there is quite a deal of work to be done over the next few years and it is to be hoped that when the adjudicator next visits the town that some of these improvements and problem areas outlined in this report, will have been addressed.