

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## **Adjudication Report**

Centre: **Cashel** Ref: **325**  
County: **Tipperary (South)** Mark: **231**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **10/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>231</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your application form, photographs and entry to the competition. Well done on the production of your three to five year plan which was very helpful to the adjudicator and gives a clear focus to the committee. The map itself could be easier and faster to read if a colour coding system were used .e.g. green for landscaping , red for residential and so on. The tourist trail of the town is most attractive and well signposted and documented.

### **The Built Environment:**

Cashel, situated in the fertile plain of Tipperary is famous for its Rock, which is approximately 90 metres in height, overlooking the town and providing many dramatic viewing vistas from the inner town streets and the adjoining hinterland. The main core of the town contains a handsome stock of two and three storey buildings. Interspersed with these are a range of historic buildings spanning many centuries. Some of these older buildings have been developed to new uses, such as Quirke's Castle in the Main Street, dating from the 15th Century and the Deanery erected in 1730, one of the finest houses of its period in the country, both now hotels. The Bru Boru Centre, a contemporary structure located under the Rock, is magnificently designed and sited. Its grounds, with both hard and soft landscaping of a very high quality, were admired. The town core has a stock of many fine buildings. These buildings retain many of their original architectural features such as sash windows, ornate doorways and shop fronts. The town also has a handsome stock of newly developed shop fronts. Cashel continues to develop its urban streets and it was noted that a garage building in Upper Friar Street has now relocated to the Cahir Road. It is to be hoped that the former premises will be redeveloped to a high standard. The Milano Ristorante dominates one side of Ladyswell and is out of keeping with the attractive shops on the opposite side. A more subdued approach to its presentation and lettering would have a major impact here. Well done to the committee for their initiative in promoting bi-lingualism in the business community. It is to be hoped that this initiative, together with the shop front awards, will pay

dividends in the years to come.

### **Landscaping:**

It was noted that the hard landscape plaza in the town centre has now been completed. This area containing good quality materials and a range of high quality street furniture together with some attractive flower displays is a great addition to the town centre. The tourist information centre and surrounding buildings generally looked well. The Lower Gate Fountain and surrounding green space with attractive flower displays also looked well. It was noted, however, that there were at least 20 directional and location signs which gave a somewhat chaotic appearance to this area. A re-organisation of the signage could considerably improve this location and enhance the status of the Fountain. Congratulations to the committee on the flower beds at the hospital green and the landscaping works carried out at the Golden Road. The Community College and the Spafield Family Resource Centre again looked well.

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

We note that the development of a Wildlife area to the rear of the Cashel Palace has been delayed due to expenditure on the Plaza. When this work does commence we hope that you will continue with your plan to engage the wildlife expert and plant the appropriate shrubs and trees.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was generally good on the day of adjudication and the main streets were litter free. Some of the back areas surrounding the library and town hall contain small amounts of litter, as did Ladyswell close by the well presented rose bed.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The initiative of Tipperary County Council in opening a new recycling centre in Cashel is to be welcomed. This in addition to the inner 'Bring Centres', one of which was again in need of attention, is a great facility for the town. We note the committee's submitted programme and encourage them to adopt more initiatives from the Race Against Waste booklet in the future

### **Tidiness:**

The town centre has a neat and tidy appearance but some of the outlying areas remain problematic. It was noted that there is a number of derelict properties and it is to be hoped that appropriate redevelopment will take place in these buildings in due course. There is a dramatic vista of the Rock from a number of viewing points from Friar Street and Upper Friar Street. These views would be considerably improved if the overhead wirescape here was to be removed.

### **Residential Areas:**

Cashel has a large quantity of housing estates and in general these appeared very well. Ard Mhuire had some nicely presented private gardens and its triangular open space looked spectacular. It was noted that a traditional long house opposite had a 'For Sale' sign and it is to be hoped that this attractive vernacular building will be preserved and refurbished in its present form. The Castle Green estate to the rear is nearing completion and would be enhanced by substantial tree and shrub planting to the vast green areas within the estate. The Abbey Road housing, The Steeples and Dun Chormaic are also nearing completion and both had some nicely presented gardens. The roadside verge was particularly attractive here, the stone walls and street lighting being admired. The adjacent Cathal Brugha Estate also looked well. The green spaces of Oliver Plunkett Park were well presented and a number of individual gardens here were admired. Greenfields is a nicely laid out housing scheme designed to a high standard. Additional tree and shrub planting here would further enhance. Off the Old Road, McDonagh Court provides a nice sense of place and the nearby Dean Ryan Place had a beautifully presented green with a spectacularly coloured flower bed. Unfortunately a semi-mature copper beech tree had been uprooted here on the day of adjudication.

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

The committee's plans for approach roads were noted in the detailed report submitted as part of the 5-year plan. Many of these improvements were noted throughout the town. One of the more striking approaches is from the Thurles / Goulds Cross area. In the simple and unfussy presentation of wide well kept grass margins, stone walls and mature trees. The Clonmel approach, inside the round-about, extending to the recycling centre, was in need of litter and weed control. The Cahir Road approach, although awaiting redevelopment on a number of sites, again looks well, with its nicely maintained grass margins and stands of mature trees.

**General Impression:**

It is noticeable in the historic town of Cashel, that the removal of the large volume of through traffic, is now paying dividends. It is to be hoped that the regeneration of the town continues at its present pace.