

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Golden** Ref: **642**
County: **Tipperary (South)** Mark: **232**
Category: **B** Date(s): **09/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	232

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included a helpful map and photographs. We would again encourage you to provide a three year work programme that would provide a focus for the committee's efforts and assist in adjudication. Golden is an attractive rural Irish village with its main street sloping down to a charming bridge spanning the river Siur. Well done on your Annual Field Day in conjunction with the GAA in support of your Tidy Towns Committee.

The Built Environment:

Golden is a nice traditional village with some fine vernacular two storey buildings on a gentle slope that descends to the bridge and the Thomas McDonagh Memorial Park. Delahunty's Cornerstone Pub is a fine example of a traditional rural village pub located on a prominent corner displaying all the finest characteristics of Irish rural architecture. On the day of adjudication a number of Carlsberg banners were tied to the front railings and somewhat detracted from its effect. The well presented window boxes on this premises add considerably to its prominent location.

Landscaping:

The presentation of public open spaces in Golden Village is of a very high standard and your volunteer committee members are to be commended on their presentation. Flower schemes at Ard Mhuire and in the Green opposite and at Pearse Park were in full bloom and presented a colourful display that enhanced the visual amenity. The Thomas McDonagh memorial is a hugely attractive focal point but shrubberies in this location were in need of freshening and weed control. Your future plans for shrubbery and flower planting at the Church and Church car park were noted.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Jubilee Park is a wonderful amenity and is one of the main features of the village. The area already abundant in wild life, offers a great educational opportunity. Perhaps the committee might consider approaching the school with a view to having an audit of the wildlife of the area. This would be a good research project. The results could then be illustrated on bi-lingual, wildlife information boards providing a further interesting information point in the village. The bird boxes on the village green were also noted.

Litter Control:

Litter control in Golden was good on the day of adjudication, however a small amount of litter and rubble was noted at the 'Geill Sli' sign between Ard Mhuire estate and Delahunty's Pub. Unfortunately, litter was also in evidence at the 'Bring Centre' in the Church car park. This ongoing problem was previously reported by you. Your plans in this regard are noted. Your initiative in encouraging businesses to maintain outside their premises is to be commended.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done on your co-operation with local householders and businesses on the waste minimisation agenda. We again urge you to continue with this programme in the coming years and perhaps to adapt more initiatives in the Race Against Waste booklet in the future.

Tidiness:

The general ambience of the village is one of tidiness, notwithstanding the fact that a number of properties are for sale and awaiting redevelopment. One particular shop, close by the bridge, had a number of broken panes of glass to its shop front, and it is to be hoped that these will be attended to in due course. Litter and a number of plastic bottles were again in evidence here. Surfacing at the Church car park was noted and we look forward to the completion of the overall car park.

Residential Areas:

Residential properties in Golden were generally of a high standard. Galtee View creates a nice sense of place and the scheme is nicely laid out. Some litter and weed control was needed here but construction is ongoing. One of the features of Golden is its magnificent stone walls and a simple stone boundary wall at Galtee View would be more appropriate than the brick peers and railings. Ard Mhuire and Radhairc Alainn were both well presented, the green space and seating were well maintained and some private gardens were admired. Pearse Park is a particularly attractive roadside development with a well landscaped inner courtyard. Its features of attractively presented green space, seating, bird boxes and cobblestone add to its charm. The gardens of some individual private residences were presented to a very high standard. The inner town street housing on Main Street, closely adjoining the bridge, is a well designed scheme and considerably enhances the townscape. The four house scheme located behind Ann's Launderette was in need of some weed control. The ground surface here could be improved.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Golden has wonderfully appointed approach roads and of particular note is the Dundrum road. This approach with well kept grass margins, stone walls and a strand of mature beech trees, and some attractively presented residences opposite, looked majestic. This approach offers views of open pasture land, lush vegetation and fine mature specimen trees. From the Tipperary / Dundrum cross roads to the Bridge House Pub is a magnificently maintained stretch of green margin with flowers and red seating and a 'Welcome to Tipperary Board' (in need of some attention). Well presented private gardens were a feature of this approach and the stands and hanging baskets were admired. 'The Golden Kebabs Takeaway' in this historic location has an unfortunate presentation. An enhanced colour scheme and improved sign writing would hugely improve the setting. Both the New Inn and Cashel Roads generally well but both were in need of some weed control.

General Impression:

Golden is a charming and historic village located on the river Suir. Its unique features have been generally retained and the principles of the urban renewal scheme, if adhered to, will guarantee the retention and enhancement of this character.