

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonmel** Ref: **516**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **289**
Category: **G** Date(s): **04/07/2008**
19/07/2008

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	40
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	29
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	22
Residential Areas	40	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	289

Overall Development Approach:

Many thanks to the Clonmel committee for their detailed submission and supplementary information. It was noted that there are 10 members, this is perhaps small for a town of this size so perhaps it is worth expanding. Contact could be made with sports or environmental groups in the town for example. While the submission was good, it is important to stick to the subheadings of the application form otherwise valuable information may be inadvertently omitted (in this case details of contact with schools and your communication strategy). To gain additional marks in this category the committee should consider compiling a multi-year action plan to detail project under each of the competition's headings.

The Built Environment:

The centre of the town looks extremely well and its rich heritage is clearly in evidence. The numerous awnings on shop fronts lend real character to the streetscape. St. Mary's church looks wonderful and the 'Griddle Bakery' across from it adds character and charm. O'Connell street looks very well and wire free! Information signs are well presented. The brown heritage and walkway signs look very well also. Dereliction is a minor problem on Gladstone street and O'Connell street where blue hoarding has been graffitied. Shop fronts are to a high standard especially Premier Meats and Mulcahy's on Gladstone St. Work on the Main Guard has given a wonderful finish to this heritage building.

Landscaping:

Large roundabouts on the by-pass road, while well maintained, could be focal points for planting, landscaping or art. Planting along the river Suir looks well and softens an otherwise hard riverside footpath. While street trees look well in the town centre there is a general lack of summer colour e.g. along O'Connell St.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Congratulations on the 2007 Notice Nature Biodiversity Award. The project in the designated wildlife areas are worthwhile. It would be a good idea to contact the local National Parks and Wildlife Service ranger to advise on appropriate conservation actions. Raising awareness of biodiversity is extremely important and it was very encouraging to note that a bat walk was held during Heritage week last year. To gain additional marks in this category the committee should undertake an ecological survey of the town. This will identify important features and suggest actions that could be completed by the community to enhance habitats and raise awareness of biodiversity. The river Suir is a Special Area of Conservation, how about placing interpretive panels near it to inform people of its importance?

Litter Control:

A comprehensive litter control programme is clearly in place and it is encouraging to note participation in both Green Schools and National Spring Clean. The town was practically spotless on adjudication day - well done to all concerned (although dog fouling was a minor problem).

Waste Minimisation:

It is good to note that 6 schools have Green Flags – are there many that are yet to receive this award? There is quite a comprehensive approach to this issue. The figures that were collected on glass recycling were very useful. A good idea would be to track the volumes and types waste that are being generated. This would allow you to measure the success of your efforts and to identify priority areas for the future. Are there programmes to raise awareness of this important issue among households?

Tidiness:

Good work on managing to bury wires in the town and removing some disused poles. Graffiti is a frequent problem in urban areas and it is good to note that this is dealt with swiftly. The billboards next to Gleeson's pub detract from an otherwise elegant street scene. The town generally looks very tidy with good surfacing on roads and footpaths. Traffic cones were scattered on Gladstone st. although no works were being carried out. The heritage sign at the West Gate needs replacing.

Residential Areas:

A very interesting project is discussed – that of using public open space to allow people to plant their own produce. This sounds intriguing and it is hoped that an up-date to this will be provided in next year's report. Estates that were visited were presented to a very high standard e.g. Abbey meadows.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach road from Waterford looks really well and roundabouts here are well presented with sculptures and planting. The Abbott facility on the outskirts of town is very impressive – it would be nice to see them plant a native hedgerow along their currently quite bare boundary fence. The approach road from Marfield is extremely well kept and free of litter or other clutter. Cottage-lined lanes in the town centre are charming and well kept but not all have names. Stalled works on the footpath on Peter st. should be finished. Areas around the city wall e.g. in the car park off Peter st. could be tidied up.

General Impression:

Clonmel is a charming town that is full of history and character. It continues to make great strides in improving itself and this adjudicator looks forward to its further success in this competition.

Second Round Adjudication:

The adjudicator was pleased to have the opportunity of visiting Clonmel for the 2nd Round adjudication not having visited the town for some time. The Heritage Trail leaflet that you provided with your entry documentation was most useful. The adjudicator was very pleased to see that you had taken action on the points raised in the 2007 Report. Much new development had taken place in Clonmel since the adjudicator last visited the town and interesting new development was noted along the Quays. The West Gate dating from 1831 is a key aspect of your interesting heritage and dominates that end of the town. The adjudicator was very impressed with the Main Guard that provides an historical echo at the other end of the town. The South Tipperary County Council building was also much admired. Hopefully the interesting 'Interior Matters' building will be restored following the fire. New tree planting is welcomed and the rural hedging at the roadside by Dunnes Stores helps to link the surrounding countryside into this part of the town. Some litter was noted along here. The landscaped area by the Cross on the Quays was admired and this looked quite colourful. The flower baskets, window boxes and flower containers seen throughout Clonmel added much to the overall presentation of the town. At the roundabout at Parnell Street attractive landscaping again featured but two of the flower beds were empty. Water adds much to any town or village and The River Suir adds to the attractiveness of Clonmel. On the day of the 2nd Round adjudication litter was a serious problem in the town.

Litter was present on the approach to King Street and was very bad at the Railway Station and nearby along the approach road to Statoil. In the river in the on New Quay in the Nelson Street area a white electrical unit was noted in the river. Along O'Connell Street litter was again present together with many cigarette butts in many areas along the street. At East Gate litter was again seen at the Bring Centre in the car park. Along Gladstone Street the litter and cigarette butt problem continued and the pedestrianised Mitchell Street and Parnell Street had litter problems also. Some of the narrow laneways off O'Connell Street were a little untidy and the seats at West Gate needed to be painted or varnished. The shrubs in the small landscaped area there looked a little tired. For 2009 the railings along by the river would be improved if painted. Very poor uncut verges were noted in the general Tesco area and this problem was noted elsewhere along the Inner relief Road.

Good luck in your work for Clonmel in 2009 when we will look forward to visiting you again.