

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Golden** Ref: **642**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **245**
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	245

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to Golden TidyTowns Group for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2009. Thank you for your comprehensive submission and for the supporting literature, and photos which shows that you are an enthusiastic group of people, committed to the improvement of the appearance of Golden and to the enhancement of the quality of life in Golden. Thank you for the map highlighting your various projects. It is good that you get support from the local community. Your engagement with South Tipperary County Council is vital, as you set about a programme of enhancing village life in Golden. You list in your letter the measures you feel needed to be taken. Your work would be helped, if you were to compile a 3 Year Plan with immediate and medium term projects, listing the agencies that would be needed to assist you and deciding from which sources you would get funding. Good luck with the challenges that lie ahead in enhancing the appearance of your village.

The Built Environment:

The vestiges of fine stone walls, what appears to have been a mill, the arched stone entrance on Ballygriffin Road show that Golden is a village steeped in history. The monument to Tomás Mac Donncha reflects the reverence the village has for the achievements of the past. In the village more recent history many of the fine buildings have had a change of usage, but still survive. The main street is a mix of businesses and residential. The design of the terrace of four town houses brings a dash of modern design to the street. Bridge House occupies an important position at the bridge, good design to its shop front. The Garda barracks looks a bit jaded. The area around the Church has benefited from the tarmac and looks well.

The buildings at the GAA pitch are well maintained and their bright colour enhances the road outside. The lantern style lights at the bridge bring character to this most important part of town. The school looks well in the summer sun. But Golden also suffers from the ravages of lack of occupancy of buildings, leading in some

cases to dereliction. Owners have a responsibility to maintain their property. The gates into the mill are in need of renewal. The street scape does need an uplift.

Landscaping:

Some of the landscaping in Golden is of a very high standard. The care and affection expressed in the colour and concept at Pearse Park is superb. The begonia border is a treat of summer colour. Beds have been created down the years to bring interest to an area or to soften the effects of a wall, and now bring summer cheer. Be careful that weeds do not interfere with that summer colour, as at the cul de sac at the GAA entrance. Where there are seats, they need to be painted. Look to the one inside Pearse Park. The tree planting at the school is most attractive. Well done on clearing the bed in the Church car park. New landscaping will restore interest to that long wall. Great care has been exercised with rose bed in other areas.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Golden is blessed by being situated on a river and so has natural habitats. The many trees that have been growing for years, combined with your shrubberies are further havens for birds, butterflies and little creatures. Last year's adjudicator suggested you carry out an ecological study of the village. A worthwhile suggestion. There may be people in your community who have an informed interest in wildlife and who would be willing to assist you with this section of the competition. When planning your landscaping projects keep in mind the welfare of birds and bees.

Litter Control:

Well done on the clean-ups. The area around the Church and cemetery was without litter on adjudication day. But there is a problem with littering on the streets and in housing areas. The slipway to the river was littered, as was the case last year. Continue your engagement with the teachers as much of the litter was caused by younger people. The adjudicator was fascinated with the landscaping use made of the bins. These bins are also needed for the purpose for which they were designed.

Waste Minimisation:

You say that there are dumping problems at the Bring Bank. On the day of adjudication it was not bad. The problem was that the sign at the Bank needs attention. The clean-up you mention in this section belongs to the litter section. It could benefit your committee to study the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. It would stimulate new waste elimination projects for you. The emphasis in this section is not on litter control, but on minimising waste in your community. You could encourage the school to try to achieve Green Flag Status. The pupils would learn much about recycling, reusing, reducing and composting. They would be involved in waste minimisation projects and would bring their new found skills, their new found knowledge and their new found enthusiasm home to the generations at home.

Tidiness:

Weeds along the bottom of stone walls and kerbs create a neglected picture. The fly-posting along the roadside needs to be stopped. All unused posts or poles need to be removed. If a sign is dirty it needs to be painted or replaced. Signposts that are lying around need to be removed. All of these items create an untidy feel to the village. All are within your control to alter. The area at Pearse Park is the standard you want to achieve. The sign for Golden, with the picture on it, in most cases needs to be washed or painted.

Residential Areas:

Golden is a mix of private housing, new and old estates. The private houses in general enhance the colour of the village. Fronts, hedges, walls all combine to create a most happy village atmosphere. The various entrances to houses bring interest to the road side. There are wonderful terraces and groups of semi detached houses. The street side of Pearse Park is a joy, much enhanced by the landscaping to the front. The terrace of town houses at the bottom of the street have flair in their modern design and bring character to the village also. Ard Mhuire is a lovely settled estate, also enhanced by its fine landscaping. A new estate like Radharc Álainn has great potential for enhancing the appearance of the village, but it too needs attention now. Fine work has been done on the name signs for the various estates, giving recognition and definition to each locality.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The appearance and maintenance of the approach road from Ballygriffin is the standard that must be aspired to on all other approach roads. The roads verges are immaculate and the walls lead one gently into the village. The problems on other roads are that the weeds are allowed to spoil the beauty of a wall and the surrounding landscaping or the advertising boards destroy the visual impact of the roadside. Bingo, the Lotto, the day in New Inn will prosper without interfering with the beauty of your village. Golden has fine stone walls also on the Tipperary approach road. Your plans to upgrade road markings and to introduce traffic calming measures are necessary. From the comments in the General Impression section, it is clear that you are aware of problems with some approach roads.

General Impression:

It gives the adjudicator no pleasure to be so critical of a village, especially when your committee works so hard on behalf of their village and when your committee is so proud of its product. You talk in your letter about 'our efforts and hopes for our beautiful village of Golden'. This sentence at once expresses your affection for your native place and your desire to enhance the quality of your village. One wishes you well in your discussions with the South Tipperary County Council, while at the same time pointing out that much of the enhancement will have to start at home. Golden is a beautiful village on the banks of the Suir and is fortunate to have a Tidy Towns Committee, which is willing to plan, discuss, consult and get its fingers dirty on behalf of the betterment of the community.