

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cashel** Ref: **325**  
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **290**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **18/06/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	42	43
The Built Environment	50	41	42
Landscaping	50	38	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23	23
Litter Control	50	33	34
Tidiness	30	20	19
Waste Minimisation	20	16	17
Residential Areas	40	28	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35	36
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>290</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2012. Your committee of twelve people are very enthusiastic and hard working and you have many successful links with the local authority and other public bodies in the area as well as support from the community. You are fortunate to have FÁS workers to help you in your endeavours. Thank you for your three year plan (2011-2013) and your comprehensive map of the area. We also found your Town Map and Area Guide which was more detailed for the Town Centre. We took delight in looking at your scrapbook.

### The Built Environment:

Cashel is a fine Heritage Town with a proud history. In the Main Street the buildings looked well, especially Kearney's Castle and the Cashel Palace Hotel behind the entrance. Within the grounds of the Cashel Palace Hotel there is a great display of Pyracantha on one lodge and roses on the other. The Market Square with its raised central paved area is a special feature in the town centre. The Croke Memorial Cross made interesting reading, the hornbeam trees were excellent and the floral displays added to the scene. The fountain in the Main Street had only a trickle of water pouring from the spouts. St. John the Baptist Church (COI) and the Bolton Library form an important historical component of the town's built environment. We noted that maintenance of the grounds is a recent project and the lodge at the entrance had many flowers. The adjacent Agar Lane was clean and tidy. We noted the large sculptures on the Green outside the County Hospital. The parish church of St. John the Baptist (RC) is surrounded by a well-constructed stone wall. The Church and Council buildings here are major parts of the urban fabric of the town and are in good condition. Houses opposite were well painted and adorned with hanging baskets. Ladyswell House (B&B) looked well and the yard at the rear was a nice effort. Café Hans was well presented but we noted weeds on a chimney of the Take Away opposite. Café Hans had window boxes and Chez Hans was landscaped with trees and hedges and no litter could be seen in this area. The four empty flagpoles here are as they were in 2011. All of this

area is good and does justice to the important national monument. The approach road and premises in the entire vicinity of the "Rock" area is well presented. The stone house at the road to the car park was well ornamented with flowers but there were weeds in the gutter. The car park had established trees, good signage and no litter. The narrow strip between the car park entrance and Granny's Kitchen is an opportunity for planting to enhance this area. There was a great display of Lupins at Granny's Kitchen. The Bru Boru centre is well done and the sculpture of dancers adds particular interest. Hore Abbey is another historical ruin in Cashel.

Dominick Abbey is a fine old ruin; the yield sign here needed cleaning. The Folk Village was well presented and the vacant house beside it was neat and tidy. The interesting apartment complex opposite had a leaking downpipe which is the cause of wet stain damage to the wall. To the left of the Folk Village the walls need cleaning. The Community School looked well but some litter was seen in the car park. We admired the thatched An Bothán Scóir, it is well conserved. The GAA park and the car park looked very well and the ash trees are well established. The cemetery looks well. The Spafield Family Resource Centre and the Rugby Club looked well. Scoil Aonghuasa was fine, good planting was seen but there is scope for additional tree planting in the grounds. Apart from a few weeds the Tesco Service Station was fine. The Cashel Town Shopping Centre looked well, its buildings in good condition, well planted and an absence of litter. The mature landscape of St. Patrick's Hospital enhances the fine buildings, two specimens of weeping ash trees were noted in the grounds and hanging baskets adorned the buildings. Outside the gates the beds were being planted. At Cashel Mart, the entrance needs improvement and the wall needs painting. At the CBS on Golden Road the planting and grass were well maintained.

### **Landscaping:**

The landscape of Cashel is significant with its wonderful natural scenery and the dominant view of the "Rock". The number of mature trees throughout add significantly to the built environment. In general the planting displays around the town were excellent, areas of particular note were at Ladyswell and the linear rose bed on the side of the Clonmel Road.

On Feehan's Road there was good and appropriate planting on each side and a bed of Sweet Williams was particularly well done. These are examples of perennial planting that give better impact with less maintenance. We note the planting of 100 new trees. Please remember that they require a weed free area for a minimum diameter of one metre at their base until they are well established. Otherwise they will not thrive as the roots cannot compete with weeds or grass for water and the trees may even fail. This seems to be the case with the newly planted trees close to the town on the Dublin Road and near the roundabout on the Dualla Road. The hornbeam trees planted at the Square suitably enhance Main Street. On the other side of the street beyond John Street the specimens of flowering cherry and copper maples make less impact and you should consider replacing them with hornbeam trees to match those on the Square. Outside the wall of St. John the Baptist Church (RC) the planting schemes were to a high standard and attracted our attention. Hanging baskets on ornamental poles in this area were excellent. The removal of dead trees in the Community School car park, in the grounds of Cashel Palace Hotel and at the redbrick school on the Old Road is an important part of maintenance. Roundabouts are opportunities for landscape treatment to enhance particular areas such as approaches to communities and suitable examples exist at the Community School, the Clonmel Road (recycling banks) and near the Rugby Club. Cashel does not have a town park and the colourful new playground facility constructed on a site off Upper Friar Street functions as such. While surrounded by well painted houses this backland location seems to be neglected as evidenced by the volume of litter, rubble, weeds and poor standard of grass maintenance. The facility in itself is very good and has nice seats and picnic tables and a litter bin. The field surrounding Hoare Abbey would be a suitable site for development as a park. Aulber House had good planting.

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

Well done to Scoil Aonghuasa for the bird boxes which we hope attracted some residents this year. Your environment is surrounded by a wealth of flora and fauna. It is interesting especially for school children to survey the flora as a means of developing their interest and knowledge of their surroundings.

### **Litter Control:**

We note your efforts in litter control and the involvement of members of the community. With some exceptions you have done a very good job, especially for a town of your size.

Litter was noted at the recycling banks on the Clonmel Road, at the GAA park, on the Old Road and in the vicinity of the playground.

### **Tidiness:**

In general, Cashel is a tidy community, with some exceptions. The no entry sign and pole at Granny's Kitchen needed cleaning and painting. In the Main Street the paving needs attention at Window Designs shop. The

Town Hall/Tourist Office is a focal point in the Square, weeds on the roof at the rear need attention. Some weeds were seen at the stone wall on the Clonmel Road and a sign was lying on the ground. It would be beneficial to use wall plants to help screen the concrete wall opposite the GAA park. Weeds and litter were a particular problem in the site where the playground is constructed. This is perhaps the worst site we visited and Elderberry is a problem in the surrounding hedgerow. Cashel Motor Works was in good condition as opposed to the Cashel Plumbing site which needs attention. The rusty farm implement is no addition to the area. The old service station at Mother Hubbards needs enhancement. Weeds in the gutter of a house beside Superbites were noted.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

We note that the three town schools have achieved a total of seven flags between them. Congratulations to St. John the Baptist Girls' School for having been twice winners of the Blackspot Clean-Up competition. Congratulations to the boys' school for their recent win in the Bord Bia poster competition. We hope you enjoyed the day out in Dublin Zoo. The level of recycling activities taking place in your community is impressive. We hope your brown bin service will happen soon.

### **Residential Areas:**

Moor Lane and Castle View estates looked well. There were some fine specimens of trees in The Steeples estate but some dead specimens and tree stakes need to be removed. With some exceptions, the houses in Cathal Brugha Street are well kept. The private gardens have good hedges and trees. The Hillview estate and McDonagh Court are in good condition except for a rusty shed nearby. Summercove Meadows were in good condition with a stone wall and railing. Tree planting is recommended here. Slí Briain appears not to be maintained; it had long grass and weeds. Painting operations were on going in Oliver Plunkett estate. Cluain Orga estate was fine.

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

Cashel has a great advantage with a view of the world famous "Rock" from surrounding roads. It is a pity that the view is not seen from the by-pass. We noted the new banners on the poles on our approach from the Dublin Road and closer to the town the nice stone wall. It was disappointing to note the untidy farm yard behind the wall. The roadside grass was cut but a tyre remould and other litter needs to be removed and the area beneath some signs needed cutting on adjudication day. The Celtic Plantarum sign needs cleaning. Existing trees and the flower bed at the Cashel sign looked well and all the road signs and finger post directional signs were clean. Between the new road and Minogues Furniture Store the grass is not maintained and the trees are being smothered, the "Welcome to Cashel" sign is hidden and an old shed needs painting. FÁS workers were in action on the well planted Dundrum Road.

### **General Impression:**

Cashel being one of the most important towns in Ireland is a must see for many tourists and it is a delightful experience. We hope that this report assists you in your planning for next year's entry.