

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonmel** Ref: **516**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **299**
Category: **G** Date(s): **16/06/2012**
27/07/2012

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	43	44
The Built Environment	50	41	42
Landscaping	50	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30	30
Litter Control	50	39	38
Tidiness	30	20	20
Waste Minimisation	20	15	15
Residential Areas	40	32	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34	34
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	298	299

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition 2012. Your committee of ten people are obviously hard working and enthusiastic and you have many successful links with the local authority and other public bodies in the area as well as support from the community. Thank you for your map, the three year plan and your submission which is very detailed. Your map did not have all streets in the centre of town indicated. However, we came across a Heritage Trail map of Clonmel and it was very useful. We recommend that you include a copy of this map in next year's submission. We were somewhat confused by the inclusion of St. Patrick's Well, St. Patrick's Church and Marfield Lake in your submission as these were also included in the application from Marfield Village Association. Our comments on these areas have been included in the Marfield Report. It is suggested that in next year's submission that you indicate the extent of the boundary for adjudication purposes. Good luck in your entry in Entente Florale.

The Built Environment:

Clonmel has a rich history which is reflected in its built environment and it is great to see important building such as the Main Guard being restored and forming once again an important focal point in Clonmel. The West Gate is an impressive building and an important feature of Clonmel. The town map and information sign at this area was very informative and in good condition. The wall beneath it needs repair. O'Connell Street buildings are fine; the Discount World needs some attention to the façade on its upper floors. The street lights, signs, hanging baskets and information sign are well done here also. Apart from weeds on some chimneys in Gladstone Street, the buildings here were in good repair. The Ormond Centre car park was clean and tidy. The trees and stone walls make an impact here and litter was absent. The White Memorial Theatre is a fine structure with nice railings and facade; it has weeds on the top of the building. Old St. Mary's Church is an important part of Clonmel's Heritage and the mature trees in the grounds enhance the area. The old Quaker cemetery on O'Neill Street looked interesting but there was no access. However, there is a lovely view

of the hills in the distance. The Valerian weed while delightful will undermine the stone work on the cemetery wall and piers if not controlled. Mary Street looks very well and the well painted school was proudly flying two green flags. Well done to all concerned. The Heritage signs throughout the town were very interesting and to a good standard. In the town centre the mural at Chadwicks brightens up the area. The grounds and premises at The Nationalist looked well and the large maple tree enhanced the area. The Fire Station looks very well. The Piper Inn and Diarmuid O'Muineacain's buildings look very well. The Superquinn car park is very good. At the Mick Delahunty Square the well presented statue of Frank Patterson enhances the square surrounded by important civic buildings. The Borstal Gate building is partly hidden by some trees. It is suggested that these be removed as they are too close to the building. The Town Hall, Hearn's Hotel and the Coachman's pub were all well presented. The Channon & Sons premises was very untidy. The new wall and flood retention works on the Quays looked very well. We admired the restored Courthouse in Nelson Street. The Art's Centre needs painting. The Showground Shopping Centre also looked well but some weeds need removal from the planting there. Barlo Motors looked well but the effect was somewhat spoiled by dereliction on the adjacent premises (Quinns). St. Patrick's Cemetery has a good stone wall boundary and opposite and is well maintained. The buildings in the cemetery add character to this area. Well kept commercial premises on Davis Road included Texaco, Lidl and Dunnes. On the other side of Clonmel, the Clonmel Park Hotel, the adjacent sports complex and shops are clean, well maintained and there are many trees and shrubs planted there. The old cemetery behind the former "Better Deal" enterprise is overgrown. The lane beside it has weeds and dumping occurs there; it would be a worthy project for your future plans. St. Luke's Hospital is surrounded by a nice stone wall. It has mature trees and works are ongoing. St. Joseph's Hospital has good mature trees and the grounds are maintained. The tree stump inside the entrance gives an untidy appearance. The Western Health Medical Centre looked fine. Muire na mBráithre school in Irishtown has a good painted wall and mature trees. St. Mary's Church (RC) looked very well.

Landscaping:

The Mall has an impressive line of trees that form a landmark for Clonmel. The hornbeam trees on the street in Irishtown looked very well. The trees in O'Connell Street look very well and are maintained to a good standard as are the trees in Gladstone Street. Unfortunately, one specimen was chopped at Sherwood Digital and another specimen nearby should be removed. Plant containers at the West Gate were well done but we suggest that the two beds be planted instead. In Irishtown some plant containers were placed on an island at a traffic light junction. While these were to a high standard it was noticed that a grass median was not being maintained. It is suggested that the priority should be to plant the median with permanent shrubs or roses as they will have a longer term impact with less maintenance requirements in terms of watering. Boat planters were noted beside the monument on the Quays. These would best be replaced by permanent planting directly at the monument. This area affords a nice view of the stone bridge. The plant containers at the Main Guard area are well done as are the boxes on the railings at Paco. Unfortunately some weeds were seen at the kerb beneath these displays. It is suggested that the flower bed with the parking regulations sign in Mick Delahunty Square be raised to prevent wheel damage from cars. A grassed island beside the entrance to the Toberheena wildlife area is an opportunity to enhance the approach to Clonmel, At present it is not well maintained and contains litter.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Toberheena wildlife habitat has opportunities for studying wildlife. It will need improvements at the entrance and litter control. It needs a proper entrance and appropriate signage. We noted the new fish pass on the River Suir and plenty of wildlife at the Wilderness Gorge. Mulcahy Park and playground looked very well and were well used on the day. It would be important to involve school children in the identification of flora and fauna in these areas to increase their environmental awareness.

Litter Control:

It is difficult for a centre the size of Clonmel to control litter. However, we have noted your efforts to manage this issue through the National Spring Clean and with the help of local authorities, FAS and resident associations. We note your efforts in this regard and the circular to Clonmel's Take Aways, a usual source of litter everywhere. Litter accumulation was evident at the Toberheena wildlife area and it was disappointing to see an accumulation of litter behind the large sign at West Gate and in the adjacent car park. Cigarette butts were visible in small quantities on the streets in the centre of town. In the vicinity of the Bring Banks on the Abbey Road there are problems of disused buildings and litter. The Bring Banks need cleaning. There was litter and weeds to the right of the entrance to St. Joseph's Hospital. There was litter on the road and weeds in the paving at the Showground Shopping Centre.

Tidiness:

Considering its size and diversity Clonmel is quite a tidy community. The group of signs at Toberheena wildlife area entrance needs attention and the Knockmealdown brown sign is partly hidden with vegetation. Near Kevin O'Leary's garage, tubular steel railing needs painting. The West Gate has some weeds on the west side of the building. Weeds were noted in Gladstone Street around the downpipes and some overhead wires

and rusty poles take from this area. There were weeds at the north gate of the old town wall. Is this area available for public use? Clonmel Business Park is a busy location, the clutter of signage and litter do little to enhance this area. The site beside Hayes Construction is untidy. In Mick Delahunty Square, the sign for parking regulations is damaged. The large concrete blocks on the Suir side of Davis Road looked unattractive. Suirvale Service Station is disused and spoils the area. The site opposite has weeds present. As mentioned in 2011, the billboard at West Gate is totally oversized for its location, especially given the historic importance.

Waste Minimisation:

We have noted the statistics on the quantities of glass and cans recycled at various locations in Clonmel. The allotments appear successful. We agree with your action in having the bring centre at Raheen Court relocated where they are more accessible and will be easier to maintain.

Residential Areas:

Clonmel has many residential estates and it is good to see that you have a network established to assist your efforts. At the Toberheena housing estate the corners of the open space are well marked with trees. In Abbey Road, the houses and streetscape looked well. The terraced housing in O'Neill Street has weeds in the gutters and chimneys. It would be nice if the residents agreed a colour scheme for the houses. Anne's Street has plant containers and climbing plants which enhance their facades. Haywood Lodge is planted and well maintained. Highfield Grove has some well-established trees. The entrance detail needs improvement. Dr. Croke Place looked great.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There is much traffic in Clonmel. One wonders what it would be like if the by-pass was not in place. At the Cahir Road roundabout the "Slán" sign needs maintenance. The line of trees here are impressive. The Cashel Road roundabout would benefit from landscape treatment. The wall of the Clonmel FC needs treatment and enhancement.

General Impression:

Many improvements have taken place in Clonmel over the past years. I am sure that you are pleased to have the flood retention wall in place, especially given our wet summer. It is great to see the Main Guard restored and the street trees continuing to develop. Good luck with your plans for the future.

Second Round Adjudication:

Entering Clonmel town centre from the R688 was quite a disappointment as too many buildings looked grey and drab with unpainted (and in some instances) dirty roadside facades. Admittedly some of these buildings were vacant and outside the sphere of influence of the Tidy Towns committee however they would have been visually enhanced and thereby enhanced their streetscapes in turn with the addition of flower displays in window boxes especially as Clonmel is representing Ireland in this year's Entente Florale Competition! discourage the use of roller security shutters to the roadside of shopfronts outside of business hours as they are visually detrimental to streetscapes especially when there are quite a few along one street as is the case in Mitchell Street. Shutters can be placed inside windows and attractive window displays featured which both enhance the streetscape and encourage window shopping followed by actual purchases during business hours. It is important for the visual amenity of streetscapes that corner buildings are well presented and the one that springs to mind immediately is The Manor premises at the corner of Bridge Street and the Quays which looks really well; the corner building on Dillon Street (and others) look particularly bad. Your second adjudicator was surprised at how few flower displays featured in the town notwithstanding our inclement weather this summer. Many container plants along O'Connell Street in particular looked a bit weather beaten especially the central plant in the middle of the flowers. Perhaps your second adjudication was a little too early? Permanent planting at a variety of locations was admired and the majority of roundabouts had been nicely landscaped.

Too many litter bins in the town centre needed to be improved in their presentation by either painting or simply washing. Litter control was not as good as it might have been; On the evening of adjudication there was a moderate scattering of litter in the town centre most of it Take Away litter and cigarette ends; it was good to note sweeping machines around the town early next morning and by 9 am the litter had all but disappeared but was creeping back by 11 am!

Roadside boundary walls to residential properties along College Avenue were in urgent need of refurbishment in many instances;

Approach roads to Clonmel are being maintained to a high standard and are most attractive including the majority of roundabouts, presumably all roundabouts will be landscaped to the same high standard before too long. The new Quay wall, bridge and footpaths enhance the amenity value of the river. Work in progress is noted and good results anticipated.