

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Fethard** Ref: **1722**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **249**
Category: **C** Date(s): **19/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	30	31
The Built Environment	50	36	37
Landscaping	50	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24	25
Litter Control	50	34	35
Tidiness	30	15	15
Waste Minimisation	20	8	8
Residential Areas	40	22	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	243	249

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2012. Your committee of 16 members and other volunteers are to be commended on your efforts particularly this year because of the wet spring and summer. You 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. We note that you meet monthly and more frequently during the summer period for litter period. We thank you for your three year plan, biodiversity survey, map and photos which we found useful and interesting. With regard to your maps we had some difficulty because the ordnance map had no street names and the scale is too small. The sketch map of the central area was confusing until we learned that items such as the bridge in the centre of the town were not shown. As suggested last year one map with more detail such as street names and points of interest is sufficient so perhaps you could work on preparing one for next year and which can also be used in years to come.

The Built Environment:

We admired the work done on Harrington's Walk. This is a great effort and the work is to a good standard. It will ensure greater safety for pedestrians. Across from the town side of the walk there is an ideal location for a feature planting. On the Jesuit Walk the old railway bridge is a nice feature. The bilingual information panels throughout the town were well done and made very interesting reading about your town's history, including the Sheela na Gig. Most signs were placed too high for ease of reading. The riverside park is lovely, natural looking, the grass is well maintained and the river is clean. No evidence of weeds or litter. Looking eastward from the bridge the rusty shed needs attention. The medieval town walls are an imposing feature of great significance and it is great to see so much of it restored. Glanbia enterprise looked well. The old Court Castle ruin is an interesting feature in the complex of historical buildings in Fethard. The backs of the houses on the corner of Main Street detract from the area. The Augustinian Abbey looks fine. Abymill and surrounds are well

restored, the area towards the river could do with a tidy up. In Burke Street the buildings looked well and we noted the trees one of which was helping to hide derelict houses on East Gate. Apart from some vacant ones, the buildings on the Square were in good condition. The blue and white plastic traffic bollards with yellow reflectors do not fit in well in your town and some are damaged. Can the local authority provide more suitable alternative fittings for this purpose. The AIB building looked well in contrast to the Town Hall building which needs painting. The large weighbridge here is an interesting feature. Holy Trinity Church building impressed but the gate was closed. O'Sullivan's Pharmacy was well painted and bi-lingual. The Post office and Credit Union buildings were in good condition. The Parish Church and Cemetery and the Presentation Convent were all well painted. The buildings to the left looked very well and had nice window boxes. Some weeds on the roof façade of the Church need attention. The statue was well painted and landscaped. The boundary wall and railings were good. Painting was needed on the back of the ballroom. The car park here was well maintained, the fence was well painted and the site afforded a good view of the old medieval town wall. Chapel Lane needs resurfacing. The North Gate is impressive but some graffiti there spoils the impact. Holy Trinity National School was well painted and landscaped. The GAA park had a good boundary wall with trees planted in front of the wall. The car park was clean. The cemetery looks well but the gate needs painting. The Top Service Station on the Clonmel Road looked well.

Landscaping:

In the Square we noted the specimen of spruce which is enclosed with a railing. It is presumed that this becomes a Christmas Tree with light but we wonder if the railing is necessary. We suggest that the island here is treated as at Lonergans with more permanent planting and removal of some paving. On Kerry Street, lots of hanging baskets and window boxes adorned the area. On the Mullinahone Road (Abbey Street) there is a nice avenue of trees. Planting near the Abbey is overgrown and needs pruning. The planting scheme in front of Allen Meats looks well with trimmed grass and hanging baskets. The planting of roses opposite the old Court Castle looked cheerful. Plant containers outside the Folk Farm were of good quality, better than the plants therein. The planting of an avenue of trees along this section would be preferable. The Folk Farm itself had good trees and grass and the playground had a well painted fence.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We have noted your Biodiversity Survey which has identified the various habitats for wildlife in your community. This information will be very useful especially for the school children who can become familiar with the flora and fauna.

Litter Control:

We noted your litter control programme and have no doubt that you are effective. Have you determined the quantity collected and is the material segregated before disposal. The litter pick days with the school children are very important to raise their awareness of the problem.

Tidiness:

We noted your actions in getting youth involvement with your committee and their help in the clean-up. The removal of old posters and flags makes a great difference and all the signs were clean. Weeds were at the litter bin at Town Hall and at O'Riordans of Kerry Street and on some buildings. The advertising board for BER on the Cashel Road should either be cleaned or removed. Some rusty sheds need attention.

Waste Minimisation:

The Bring Centre near the ballroom was fine except for graffiti on the back of the sign and a small amount of litter in the car park. The Killenaule Road Bring Centre was fine. Do you know the quantities of material being recycled from these facilities? Congratulations to the local school for qualifying for a green flag.

Residential Areas:

The cottages on the Clonmel road looked well. An Sean line estate could do with some improvement on the open space, two broken trees and two dead trees need to be removed as did the stakes on some of the established trees. There was some untidiness in the corner. Abbey View estate looks fine, it has a nice entrance but an estate sign would be nice here. Cluain Árd estate is an unfinished estate. Trees would be of benefit to the area and there were weeds at the kerb. Cois Fella estate on the Rockwell Road looked well. St. Patrick's Place estate was fine apart from a dead tree which should be removed. There is scope for more tree planting here. Canon Hayes Court and Fr. Tirry Park had well kept houses and the grass was well maintained but more trees can be planted. Other estates in good condition were Slievenamon Close, Árd Álainn, Strylea and Woodvale Walk. Friarsfield estate with its fine stone wall entrance has scope for more trees in the gardens.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach to Fethard was very welcoming. On the Cahir Road the pump was painted, the Cotoneaster was doing a good job on the right of the road. The roads around the medieval town wall need improvement to repair the potholes. The "Fethard" sign on Abbey Street (Mullinahone Road) is shabby. We look forward to seeing your new footpath from the Ballroom car park to adjoin the path at the old Railway Station House.

General Impression:

Fethard is a most historic town. It is great to see so many of the old buildings and walls still standing and restoration works being implemented. New facilities such as Harrington's Walk are important additions and congratulations on the effort. Well done on your positive approach to improving Fethard and we wish you good luck in the future.