

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Golden** Ref: **642**  
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **263**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **20/06/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	33	34
The Built Environment	50	36	37
Landscaping	50	39	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23	23
Litter Control	50	33	34
Tidiness	30	17	18
Waste Minimisation	20	7	7
Residential Areas	40	31	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	31
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>263</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2012. Your committee of 20 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 made links with FAS and have good support in the community. Many thanks for your application, a map of the area and photos. Please identify street names for future reference.

### The Built Environment:

The GAA club was well painted. The fenced area opposite could do with a line of trees. We admired the adjacent nice low stone wall. The school has a nice stone boundary, mature trees and the buildings were painted and the green flag was proudly flying. Congratulations on your 75th anniversary. We noted the works in progress by the River Suir. The island with its two fine stone bridges, its castle ruins and the memorial to Thomas McDonagh is a very interesting part of your townscape. We noted the shrubs and rose planting at the monument. The small parks on both sides of the monument and old tower were inviting with their seats and picnic tables. We noted the Old IRA and the Millennium memorials. It is great to see the park being well maintained and the views of the river and bridges were quite special. Bridge House was well painted and decorated with baskets and boxes of flowers. We visited Athassel Abbey ruins. This is a wonderful remnant of history of which perhaps you should include more detail in your submission. The Church and Cemetery looked great. Unfortunately we saw some litter near the Bring Banks. The car park could be enhanced by screening the walls and marking the parking bays. Your work at the creamery is bearing fruit.

### Landscaping:

Your use of perennials such as shrubs, roses and herbaceous plants are having the desired effect as at the

Garda Barracks and other locations. This approach is preferable to reliance on annual bedding schemes which are very time consuming.

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

We were happy to read that Golden National School won the best new entry of the South Tipperary Co. Co. Environmental Awards. Their raised gardens will be important resources for increasing their awareness of how to grow plants and vegetables. Are there many visitors to your bird feeders and bird table? Appreciating your local wildlife resources is vital in order to achieve under this category. In this regard researching and raising awareness is more important than 'doing' at the early stages. Biodiversity is under threat globally and sadly Ireland is a part of this trend. Learn why this is important and discover are areas designated for conservation close to you at [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie) or [www.noticenature.ie](http://www.noticenature.ie). Habitats of value include specimen trees, hedgerows, treelines, stream, woodlands and wetlands. Some or all of these are likely to be present in your town and they should be mapped. Learn how their quality can be enhanced through careful management. Try to list the plants and animals to be found there and recognise their significance (native, protected, or alien invasive?).

#### **Litter Control:**

We note your problems in controlling litter at the Bring Banks and some litter was seen on adjudication day. Otherwise you are to be complimented on your efforts in this regard.

#### **Tidiness:**

Golden is quite a tidy village. Signposts were clean and well painted and you have managed weed control very well. Shopkeepers seem to be cooperating well in keeping their premises neat and decorated. The old mill is an eyesore and has a rusty gate. We noted that you have painted some derelict buildings. In the car park at the Church the old building takes from the appearance of the area.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Congratulations to the Golden National School for being awarded the first green flag and good luck with your next application. This category is about tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. It is a global and a local problem. To save the Earth we need to move quickly to a zero waste society. Your town can play its part by first looking at the volume of waste that is generated. Contact your waste contractors who can help with this. Try to find out what is being thrown away and armed with this information you can start to think about how waste can be reduced.

#### **Residential Areas:**

There was a great display of flowers and shrubs on a private house An Grianan on the Cashel Road and an attractive stone wall boundary caught our eye. Pearse Park estate had some weeds at the kerb. The Green was well maintained and we noted the lovely roses and trees. In Radharc Álainn the houses and gardens looked well and are a testament to their hard work as is the lovely flower bed at the edge of the estate. We noted the clever slanted collection of hanging baskets on a gable wall.

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

On the Cashel Road, the "Welcome" sign was certainly welcoming. On the Tipperary Road, Liam Maher Farm Machinery looked well. We admired this approach with the stone walls on both sides and the pleasant line of birch trees behind one of the walls. The "Welcome" sign is hidden behind the green bollard. Can it be moved?

#### **General Impression:**

You are continuing to make improvements in Golden and we wish you well for the future and look forward to your application in 2013.