

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cashel** Ref: **325**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **306**
Category: **D** Date(s): **28/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	43	44
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	43	44
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	43	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	26	26
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	18	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	58	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	39	40
TOTAL MARK	450	301	306

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Cashel is very welcome to the SuperValu TidyTowns competition and thank you very much for the completed entry form, nice photographs and excellent map which was very useful on the day of adjudication. It is pleasing to learn that you have 20 enthusiastic members and for a town the size of Cashel they are getting through a lot of work with the three meetings annually plus the other informal meetings. It is positive to have all those contacts listed with the other organisations. Your endeavours are rewarded by the sponsorship of SuperValu and Tesco and good to learn that other businesses are also supporting you plus Coops Growers etc. Congratulations on being selected by Cashel-Tipperary Municipal district to receive their Environment Award for improved marks in the TidyTowns competition.

Communications through Facebook is now very popular and we note you are also using the newspapers. You have formed good relationships with the youth of the area and delightful to learn of the advances made by the schools in the Green Flag initiatives. You have a long association with the competition going back over 30 years which has gone a long way towards the improved appearance of this lovely town, and it certainly is a very attractive place for locals and tourists alike. It is delightful to read that you get a tremendous sense of satisfaction for your endeavours. This is an excellent approach to the competition.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

On the Dublin road near the fire station there is a group of lovely shops where Fahys, the Country House Antiques, O' Neills Restaurant and Gleasons are in excellent condition. I loved the little traditional water pump standing in a beautiful stone trough, we admired another one on Palmers hill. Halla na Féile is beautiful and we congratulate all those who maintain it so well. Cashel Flowers, Sport of Kings Saddlery, Daybreak and Foleys are splendid. The Parish Pastoral Centre stands out in great condition with nice hanging baskets of flowers. Cashel Catholic Church is beautiful with outstanding murals enclosed by a beautiful sturdy railing, gate and wall and we love the grotto. Second Chance across from the church is beautiful. There are wonderful stone walls throughout Cashel with a beauty outside the graveyard beside the church and continuing out the Dualla road. Cashel Community School is a huge complex with wonderful landscaping and a spacious carpark to the front. The three primary schools are in splendid condition with lovely flower boxes on the window sills. We admire the shrubbery area there proudly displaying green flags.

A stroll through the main street was a very enjoyable experience where most of the shops are doing vibrant business. The gable end of Rock Kebab and Pizza gives a bad impression. Feehans is attractive. The Acquired Brain Injury Ireland Bookshop looks well and we enjoyed the lettering on Kearneys Castle Hotel. Daverns shop stands out in beautiful condition. The plaza is a nice facility with the Market Square Monument at one end and the Tourist Office at the other with a raised paved area containing attractive trees and pretty containers of flowers. It also acts as a nice gathering area and we are enticed to sit on the good quality public seating and admire the

surroundings. Near the plaza we loved the Kilkenny shop, Ryans, Rossa Pottery and the Pharmacy. At the other side of the street Daverns and Eleanors stand out. It is disappointing to see the Cashel Palace closed down but we look forward to see it restored to its former glory as there are exciting plans for it. P Walsh Butchers is nicely presented and SuperValu is outstanding with a spacious car park at the back. O' Dwyers is a most attractive pharmacy and the Credit Union is festooned with lovely flowers. Baileys Hotel is nicely set back from the main street. T.J. Ryans with its vibrant colours and beautiful stone work is pretty. Brosnans bar stands out at the corner with a splendid mural and the Thai restaurant has colourful flower arrangements.

Aldi's busy store is secluded well back from the street and it has a wonderful defined carpark surrounded by an outstanding traditional stone wall with attractive landscaping. On the Cahir road St Patricks Hospital is most attractive with wonderful landscaping and the Centenary shop has nice landscaping and is very well presented. Tesco have a very well defined carpark and I would like to see some shrubs or flowers at intervals there but there is nice landscaping adjacent to the housing estate. Scoil Cormaic is attractive and well-kept on the Golden road. Brú Ború is beautiful in every way; we admire the sculpture depicting traditional music and dance. It has a large defined carpark with outstanding native hedging and some splendid mature trees. It is beautiful to see the old church building has retained its original identity and is now Chez-Hans restaurant. There is beautiful stonework on the little building beside it and we admired many plaques for Bridgestone successes. The thatched Cashel Folk Village is bright and cheerful with outstanding sash windows. Noel Fahys shoe shop stands out at the end of the town with its brightly painted shopfront. ST. John's Cathedral is a beautiful stone building with well-kept surroundings and we admired the old house that was once the Bolton library. The Garda station, Courthouse and ETB buildings are brightly painted on that little street. We admired the gas effect lamp standards on Hogan's square. Cashel Post Office is in great condition with lovely hanging baskets of flowers. There are splendid views of The Rock of Cashel which is a landmark building in this beautiful part of Co. Tipperary, and we look forward to the removal of the scaffolding from it.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Landscaping is supreme on the Dublin road with green open spaces and splendid flower beds. Some beautiful wild flowers such as red valerian and oxeye daisy remind us that they to have a role to play. There are beautiful young and mature trees on this roadside. We enjoyed the hanging baskets of flowers attached to a beautiful stone wall across from the Fire Station. Flowers in hanging baskets on T standards add great colour and freshness to the surroundings. Landscaping is beautiful on the Dualla road notably on the right hand side across from the great stone wall going out. There are nice young trees at the green. We admired the little white shed with the windows painted in and the vegetable area to the front but some old tyres left there could be discarded. The standing stones at the V near the hospital are interesting. Landscaping is beautiful on the Tipperary road with nice tree lined green open spaces and nice flower beds. Landscaping is supreme at the junction for Holycross. Cashel Handball Club is a good facility with a nice mural on the wall, and has a good quality children's playground with excellent public seating in a splendid green area.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

The Gouts pool across from Bryan Fogartys is interesting and I tasted some of the blackcurrants there. The large marble stone has interesting inscriptions and I was surprised to find some algae in the pond. The standard of workmanship here is of a high order. Cashel area is a haven for all types of wildlife with millions of insects available in the stone walls. We admire the great work being done in both the boys and girls schools to give focus to and maintain interest in biodiversity in Cashel. I was thrilled to see the lovely photographs for the biodiversity photograph competition and also the construction of the bug hotel. This was brought to my notice on the school websites; it could be a good project to hire the services of a wildlife expert to come to this school and give them a walk and talk on wildlife.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

I note you have become involved in this pilot project called "Towards a zero Waste Community" which seems to be a worthwhile experience – Irelands first Zero Waste Community. A study being carried out will look at possibilities for alternative use for waste items. It is interesting to find that Zero Waste projects are evolving internationally. We eagerly await further news on this exciting new initiative. Since this category now attracts 50 marks some communities have started sub-committees to work solely on Sustainable Waste and Resource Management, and thereby gain a lot of valuable extra marks. If interested please contact www.tidytowns.ie

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The recycling centre in Tesco carpark containing four bottle bins and two clothes bins has rubbish dumped there which is disappointing. I felt that a few shrubs could enhance the litter bins in this recycling centre. The car park across from the church had all the bottle bins completely full with the result that bottles and cardboard were left on the ground in front of them. I commend your attention to the threat from dog excrement and am pleased to report that on my visit thankfully I did not see any of it. Great to see the dog bags on some streets. Congratulations on taking part in the National Spring Clean-Up. Reading your submission I got the impression you seem to be aware of what you call Blackspot areas, and perhaps you do not need any more surveys only stern action together with the council to keep your beautiful town in order. In other areas they designate certain areas to specific people and it seems to work well for them. If you are referring to dumping this is another matter entirely, and the procedure here is to (A) do not touch it, (B) take a photograph of it and give it to the County Council Environment section with an accurate description of where it is located. The Council then have powers to take appropriate action on this, if evidence is found, which will not involve your committee. The recycling centre on the Clonmel Road is an excellent well-run facility and is discretely secluded off the road.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

There are beautiful houses on Palmers Hill mostly fronted by a splendid traditional stone wall. The yellow house with the small fáilte sign is festooned with beautiful flowers. Lána Croke is a nice new estate with good landscaping and we look forward to the completion of the road surface there to level off with the manhole covers. There are two nice sign posts for the Steeples estate but they are covered with vegetation. Ard Mhuire is a nice estate. The famine era thatched cottage stands out in white décor and a red door. Woodlawn is a beautiful estate. There is a lovely estate coming down from the school with no name on it and it is across from the well-appointed Hillview. Spafield Crescent has a wonderful entrance with nice houses. It has nice flowerbeds but we would like to have the tyres which are inappropriate replaced with stone surround flowerbeds. Oliver Plunkett Park is a well-kept housing estate. One estate is left in a poor condition with the manhole covers higher than the road and could be hazardous for driving on. The houses are well kept by the owners but we were disappointed with the shabby hoarding. Cluain Órga is a beautiful housing estate. There are really well kept houses near the old Abbey on Dominic Street. The Dominican Abbey has unique architectural features and great to see the stone work so well preserved after all these years. There are most beautiful houses on John Street. Ashmore house stands out. There are some really beautiful town houses and many of them have attractive displays of flowers. On the outskirts we admired some really lovely houses that have outstanding landscaping that add to the character of this lovely historic town.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

The Dublin road has a splendid surface and good views of oncoming traffic from well-kept grass margins. Landscaping is supreme giving a lovely welcoming affect to the town. To our right we enjoy nice views of the Rock of Cashel. Bilingual road signs welcome us to the town. We enjoyed the finger signposts pointing us in the right direction and bollards help with traffic management. Speed bumps near the school and at other locations reduce the speed of the traffic. We admired lovely landscaping at the side of the Cahir road. There is a spacious carpark at the back of the Cashel Palace Hotel. We admire Bóthar na marbh on the Dundrum road where out further the landscaping is supreme with raised shrub and flowerbeds surrounded by attractive low stone walls.

Concluding Remarks:

I thoroughly enjoyed some time amongst your people in this lovely part of County Tipperary. All are complimented for the presentation of the area in such a clean and orderly manner especially when catering for several bus loads of people each day – well done to all concerned.