

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cappawhite** Ref: **635**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **270**
Category: **B** Date(s): **21/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	50	36	36
Landscaping	50	37	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21	21
Litter Control	50	38	39
Tidiness	30	17	17
Waste Minimisation	20	8	8
Residential Areas	40	32	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	267	270

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2012. Your committee of ten members are to be complimented on your efforts particularly this year because of the wet spring and summer. It is good that you receive support in your community and from public agencies in your area. Your activities are noted and congratulations to the school for their success in the Green Schools programme. Many thanks for supplying us with a map highlighting works done in your community, it was very useful. We note that you will be preparing a new three year plan and wish you good luck in that venture.

The Built Environment:

The Main Street has some houses which are well painted and sadly some unused/derelict buildings which are in need of attention, including the Parish Hall which even has some weeds on the roof gutter. Others such as Burkes (XP shop) and Cappa laundry seemed to be closed. On Church Street, the old church with boarded up windows and the roof needing repairs is no doubt a concern for your community. The adjacent Garda building is in need of maintenance, the building needs painting and the grounds are in need of weed control. The school building and grounds further up the hill look very well and the stone wall opposite enhance this area. Buildings which looked well included the Health Centre, the house opposite and the funeral home. Also, Armshaws, Treacys and Centra in the Square. The Square with the church in the background is an impressive sight and the paved islands help to regulate traffic flow. However, while that seemed to be the initial purpose, it is time to consider how this area can be improved to further enhance the town. The present layout of bollards, seats, street lights, plant containers, litter bins and some planted beds tends to add clutter and it is noted that weeds are emerging in the paving. It is suggested that a revised layout be considered to include removal of some of the paved area to form a green with trees and grass. Such an area would then be an excellent location for a feature such as a fountain/sculpture in association with a significant floral display. The Resource Centre is a fine building with a large car park. The tennis courts are a fine facility with a nice

boundary wall and are neat and tidy. The Youthreach facility was well painted and the new wall at Barrymore looked very well. A footpath from the cemetery to the town would be important for safety and convenience.

Landscaping:

We noted the Lilies and other herbaceous plants against the stone wall boundary on the Cashel Road. While they looked very well considering the cold wet summer, they are not really needed in this location. The stone wall is significant on its own and does not need any enhancement other than the removal of weeds. Similarly, the use of plant containers against an ivy clad wall on the Tipperary Road is unnecessary as the wall has its own character; your efforts would best be directed at removing weeds at the wall base. On the town side of Cappa House the Cotoneasters falling over the wall look very well. There is a fine line of Lime trees on the entrance to the pallet making enterprise. It is time to remove the tree stakes from some of these trees before they cause damage to the stems. Floral displays at the house beside Centra were very good. We noted the use of plant containers at the Parish Hall but sadly they did not look well. We do not recommend using floral displays in this situation; they only draw attention to the dereliction. The street trees are making impact but ensure that dead trees are removed as soon as possible and replaced next winter. The landscape treatment at the Resource Centre while clean and tidy makes little impact. It is suggested that consideration be given to some tree planting in the planted strip at the roadside, in the median in the centre of the car park and a hedge planted against the steel palisade railing at the rear (instead of the beds). Such items would have minimal maintenance and maximum impact. Remember to use the same species of tree rather than a number of different species. The removal of the tops of four trees was noted. It is recommended that the remaining parts of these trees be removed to avoid having hazard branches at some future date. The cemeteries are very well maintained. The planting outside the wall has matured and changed over the years. The shrubs have grown well and it is suggested that you carry out some pruning this winter to thin them out rather than clipping them which only shapes them into mounds. Aim to highlight each shrub with its individual character. Consider the use of wall plants such as Cotoneaster against the concrete wall to enhance its appearance.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Ox-Eye Daisies on the roadside embankment on the Tipperary Road near the village looked very well. They are an example of native plants being used in an effective way. The surroundings of Cappawhite are full of such wild plants. It is suggested that through the school children a survey of what is growing on the hedgerows could be carried out. That would help to promote environmental awareness and knowledge of our native flora.

Litter Control:

Well done on your litter management programme which seems to be working very well. We found very little evidence of litter throughout the town. The litter bins were clean and well maintained. This is evidence of a high level of awareness regarding the need to prevent litter.

Tidiness:

In general, Cappawhite is very tidy. Some weeds were present on both sides of the road kerb near the entrance to the pallet making enterprise and near the Health Centre. Cable ties left over from the elections were still on some poles on the Cashel Road. Some of the brown coloured signs needed cleaning. Some old railings around a house to the right of the Parish Hall need repair/replacement. The information boards in the Square are excellent. They make interesting reading and it is noted that they are bi-lingual. At the Resource Centre, some weeds were noted in the gutter at the rear of the building and the oil tank was dirty. It is suggested that this be screened with some timber fencing. Some rubble/sand heaps are dumped on the road opposite the Resource Centre. Perhaps this is material left over from the road improvement works. At Costello's Service Station a rusty oil tank is an opportunity to do some screening with plants. On the Limerick Road we noted the efforts to improve Hayes Garage by painting the buildings and suggest that the roofs for the next phase. The cemetery looks well, the grass is well maintained. Attention to some weeds on the outside and painting the gates would add to the scene.

Waste Minimisation:

The Bring Centre at the Resource Centre on the Tipperary Road appears well used. It was disappointing to see some litter stuffed in between the containers. Perhaps these were placed there by people who used the facility. The sign needs cleaning and to be straightened.

We noted the two green flags flying in the school grounds so well done to everyone involved. We note that one third of your waste is recycled. Have you been able to determine actual amounts being recycled?

Residential Areas:

Fr. Callanan Park is a well maintained residential estate which has good planting but some dead trees should be removed and a few weeds were present at the sign. The Crescent estate was clean and tidy but it is time

to remove some tree stakes which are no longer required and which may damage the tree stem. A number of plant containers located on a grass margin suggest an opportunity for additional tree planting. In general use plant containers where it is not possible to plant directly into the ground. The mural of a rural scene was eye catching.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The clean town sign welcomed us on the Cashel Road and the fine stone wall with the ash trees behind looked very nice. Some parts of this boundary wall needed repairs and no doubt that will be attended before next year. On the left side the boundary needs some restoration to bring it up to the standard of the right hand side. We liked the street name signs throughout; they are of good quality. The street surface looked very well; no doubt everyone is pleased to have the work completed. It is noted that the improvement works on the Tipperary Road are completed and it looks very well. The entrance to High Park has changed from its former status; could the owner consider providing a new entrance which would enhance this area?

General Impression:

Cappawhite is a fine town with a community that cares for its environment. Your main problems are the number of empty buildings which are deteriorating. In some towns the committees have painted such buildings to make them look like they are being used. Perhaps you would consider exploring that option.