

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **STEPASIDE**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	30
The Built Environment	40	25
Litter Control	40	24
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	182

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Stepaside looked quite magnificent on adjudication day with its nicely landscaped areas. However, there appears to be no co-ordinated work plan as information regarding this was not provided in the entry form for participation in this year's competition. An important step would be to develop a plan for the village outlining projects to be undertaken over a three to five year period. Try to establish a good working relationship with the local authority and create links with the ESB and Telecom Eireann also as this may help in your efforts regarding wirescape. Thank you for your continued participation; we look forward to many repeat visits to your lovely village.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The stream on the corner of Kilgobbin Lane could be featured as a wildlife area. A walled in site on the Mountain Road might be developed as a wildlife garden. A wildlife survey of the village and its environs could be undertaken and the findings highlighted as an important feature of Stepside. The derelict site noted in your entry form should be surveyed for its wildlife and the findings provided on an information panel. The site could then be highlighted as a wildlife feature of the village.

LANDSCAPING

The numerous flower displays and well landscaped areas throughout the village were a pleasure to witness. A small green area located behind the betting office could be upgraded. One shrubbery on a green area on the Kilgobbin Road featured a fair amount of wasted space and rough growth. The overall presentation under this heading is excellent and is one of the strong points of Stepside's presentation. The environs of the old Cross Monument could be better presented, for example a kerb could be constructed around the roadside edge of the green area here and the area planted. The sign for this historic amenity feature should be located on the Main Road.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

A small area located between the Stepside Inn and the Betting Office could be developed as an attractive feature of the village - for example, it could be resurfaced. The Garda Station and its carpark were well presented; however its boundary wall needs to be refurbished. The gates to the Irish Conservatories property need to be upgraded. There are too many signs on the Kennedy's premises.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was quite good throughout the village; however some litter was noted on the Mountain Road, particularly along verges.

TIDINESS

A number of untidy side areas were noted to properties along the Mountain Road beyond the Post Office. The area inside the gates of Irish Conservatories looked untidy and were open to public view, perhaps this could be rectified. Weed growth was noted along the footpath on Kilgobbin Road, this should be eliminated. Otherwise the overall presentation under this heading was quite good.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Landscaping to the roadside areas of residential properties along Kilgobbin Road is enviable. Some boundary walls in the small housing development were in need of attention and weeds were also noted in this area. A small residential property on the Mountain Road needs to be upgraded in respect of its overall presentation but particularly in respect of its garden. The overall presentation under this heading is good.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Flower tubs and litter bins are presented to a very high standard, however some road signs need refurbishment and at least one replacement is necessary. The footpath out of the village towards Dublin located opposite the Garda Station needs to be resurfaced. Some stretches of kerb along the Kilgobbin Road are in need of refurbishment. The roadside vegetation along the footpath out the Enniskerry Road is quite rampant and it is difficult to walk this footpath without being tangled in the overgrowth. Roadside verges along the Mountain Road are rough looking in appearance. These can either be maintained neatly trimmed during the growing season or managed for a wildflower display. The carpark on the Main Road looks quite well, however some weeding is necessary here and its roadside boundary wall needs to be replanted. Some stretches of the Dublin approach road were both overgrown and littered. The stone wall along the Mountain Road should be cleared of excess vegetation and the stone wall here highlighted as an attractive feature of the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Stepside was one of a well cared for and beautifully landscaped village. There is obviously a substantial amount of pride in the presentation of the village. However a little more needs to be achieved in order for the village to become a serious contender for the top awards.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (07/08/96)

The town of Stepside looked very well on a sunny second Adjudication Day, with the golfers dotted along the grassy slopes leading up to the conifer forests, and set against the spectacular backdrop of the Dublin Mountains. Quite a bit of litter was evident along the Burrow road, Glencullen road and Enniskerry road. Weeds were a problem along the kerbside of Kilgobbin Lane and the Leopardstown road. Signage could also have been presented to a higher standard, as it appeared quite grubby. The boundary wall to the car park of the Mountainview House was quite flaky and the gable wall to the Betting office was quite grubby. The timber flower tubs and timber barrel litter-bins looked very well, and the few remaining yellow plastic litter bins should be replaced. The telephone box was presented to a very high standard - it even had a mat!