

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **NAAS**  
County : **KILDARE**  
Category : **F**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20
Landscaping	40	26
The Built Environment	40	30
Litter Control	40	22
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>191</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the new format of the 1996 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed questionnaire, detailed comments and map which were helpful during the course of adjudication. Naas has a number of very good inherent qualities that can help achieve good marks in the competition, namely, the canal, good residential areas and good quality built environment. In this regard, the adjudicator looks forward to the submission of your detailed five year work programme and to innovative and new ideas developing in years to come.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The two main water features in the town, namely the lake and the canal had a mixed presentation. While the canal area is generally very well maintained, the adjudicator was extremely disappointed with the presentation of the lakeside area. It was good to see swans, signets, ducks and ducklings, together with other bird life in the lake, however, its presentation was very bad with overgrown grass verges on the Ballymore Road. The provision of information plaque displays on the wildlife in the area would be helpful. The adjudicator was extremely concerned at the very bad litter at the connecting stream between the two lakes and at the grassed area nearby. This is not promoting wildlife and is something you are going to have to tackle. Having said that, all along the canal is very well presented and is an important amenity for wildlife also. There is potential for greater nature conservation, a good starting point would be to identify wildlife habitats in your catchment area and see what type of birds, animals and fish etc. these attract. You could invite local environmental experts and groups to advise you and provide you with the specialist information you require.

### LANDSCAPING

The adjudicator was relatively disappointed with the presentation of landscaping throughout the town of Naas this year. Grass is overgrown at Ladys Place. Nice roses were noted at the army barracks, but try to improve the flower tubs. The area opposite the VEC grounds was very disappointing - it was totally overgrown and the seating needs to be painted. At the area between the House of James and Harbour View Hotel was also very disappointing with ragweed very evident. The lake side area was very untidy with the grass bank very overgrown, long grass in the shrubbery. By St. Corbans, another overgrown area was noted. Grass was not cut at the Dublin/Kill sign. The area to the front of the red brick park on the Blessington approach needed attention, either wildlife or landscaping? A well presented area was noted outside the Keredern Stud. Along the canal was well maintained. Also, the adjudicator noted that the graveyard near Abbey Bridge needed improvement. Perhaps a project could be developed here to improve the landscaping in this area. Overall, there is considerable room for improvement but the adjudicator recognises that there are large areas to cover.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The presentation of the built environment is quite good throughout Naas with some very good examples of shopfront design. It is also good to see that there is variety and a blending of both old and new. Minnans is an improvement. Premises looking well on day of adjudication were Swan Dowlings, Manions; Finans, the Garda Station; the Montessori School; John Mulbey; Ann OGormans Hair Studios; County Kildare VEC grounds; Colm McEvoy; The Manor Inn; the Ivy Inn; Brown McCann; Naas Court Hotel; Kinsellas; T. Fletcher; The Paddocks; Haydens; Butt Mullins and many, many more along the Main Street - Brets Flowers and the Cottage Restaurant. The former fire station is a very attractive building but could be better presented. Jigginstown House is also a very important heritage site for the town and perhaps approaches might be made in improving this area. Good efforts were noted with flowers at a number of premises, e.g. O'Reillys Pharmacy and School Supplies. Q.K. Coldstores was well presented but the entrance could be improved. Donnelly's was also well presented. St. Davids Church is a very attractive heritage building in the centre of the town and was well presented at time of adjudication. The premises

to the left of the library is very attractive - Cuan Aoibinn. Too much signage was noted at the building by the canal harbour, try to work on this. Plastic signage in a number of cases was noted - try to continue to work on this. Overall, though, a very good performance.

#### LITTER CONTROL

The adjudicator was very disappointed with the amount of litter in Naas this year and it is something you are going to have to work on. Litter was noted outside Swan Dowlings. It was also noted on the three approach roads, on the grassed area near Lakelands - litter was particularly bad and within the stream. It was also quite bad within the grounds of the swimming pool, to name but a few areas. The Main Street was not too bad. Overall, there is greater scope for improvement under this category. The overall appearance was not very positive.

#### TIDINESS

The adjudicators would like to bring to the attention of the Tidy Towns Committee that tidiness and litter control now constitute 20% of the total marks. Tidiness in Naas was very disappointing this year, especially in light of the standard it achieved in previous years. The approach roads are very disappointing. The seating needs to be painted in a number of cases. Weeds are particularly bad. There were several cases of shrubbery overgrown. The problems of litter alluded to above also needed to be tackled. Generally, landscaped areas were not that well maintained either.

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Overall, a good performance in this category this year. The majority of residential parks were very well presented. Some of those noted by the adjudicator include Esmondale Park; Harbour View Apartments; Patrician Avenue (replace sign); Lakeside Park (but weeds were noted at the entrance); Lakelands is a very nice park (but litter was very bad at the grassed area near the stream near the entrance); Sundays Well was very well presented as was Woodlands/the Paddocks; St. Conletts Place was well presented; Ashgrove was okay but a better effort is needed at the bedding area at its sign; the park opposite was very good; the Sycamores was also noted; Hollywood Park and Old Court Villas. A very attractive new housing scheme was noted opposite the Harbour View Hotel. Finally, there is also fine examples of some very good individual effort, for example, at the premises noted to the left of the library and also at Keredern Stud.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The adjudicator was again disappointed with the appearance of approach roads to Naas this year. On the approach road from Newbridge, the grass had not been cut at the Naas sign, some planting was noted at Chadwicks but grass verges had not been cut back the whole way in. Weeds were also a problem here, i.e. Ragwort. Also, try to remove gravel and grit from the kerbsides as it takes from the overall appearance. On the approach road from Athy, there was a very bad presentation further out but closer in there was a bit of an improvement. However, the bin was overflowing; grass was overgrown and seats needed painting. Approaching Naas along the Ballymore Eustace road, grass needed to be cut back on the left hand side, litter was noted, the grassed area by the lake side was already mentioned and weeds were noted outside the residential park. The approach road from Dublin was extremely disappointing, no grass cutting had taken place along by the bollards and it also had not be cut the whole way in which was extremely disappointing. On the approach road from Blessington, overgrown weeds took from the overall appearance. Within the town itself, the streets were relatively well maintained, for example, the Main Street and also Mill Lane Road by the seating area. The parking area at the rear of the council building was quite bad with litter/dumping of gravel noted.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

To date Naas has been quite successful in this competition having achieved a relatively high mark. With the new emphasis of the competition very much on tidiness, litter control and wildlife, Naas is going to

have to work harder to improve this. The adjudicator was disappointed with the presentation this year and hope that it is just a minor blip. They are very concerned at lack of efforts in landscaped areas and will have no hesitation in taking marks next year if this presentation continues. The adjudicator hopes that improvements will be made for next year and they look forward to their visit.