

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ROBERTSTOWN**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19
Landscaping	40	24
The Built Environment	40	18
Litter Control	40	24
Tidiness	20	9
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	161

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the new format of the 1996 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your detailed questionnaire and concept plans. Some of these drawings do look very exciting, but you should be realistic in your plans in the preparation of a five year plan for your village. From the plan being prepared by the ESB, try to come up with practical projects that can be implemented. The on-going problem of dereliction is noted. It is good to see that the reinstatement of the road has taken place following the sewage works, this has improved the approach. Undergrounding is also a welcoming feature. Robertstown is potentially a very attractive village with a lot of character connected with the canal and the Old Canal Hotel. Good luck for 1997.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The wildlife area adjacent to the canal is a very nice feature. The canal itself is also a very important wildlife habitat. 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 specialist information you require.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping was quite good this year, well done. There is however, room for improvement, for example, at the slipway, surely a better effort could be made here. Paint up the pump and the wall adjacent to it also. The entrance to the car park could have been much better presented. Nice seating was noted by the stream between the canal and the wildlife area. The planting by the very attractive stone wall was noted again this year. The canal pier area and harbour were very well maintained with very neatly cut grass - try to perhaps consider more tree planting.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Obviously, the on-going problem with dereliction takes from the overall approach. Having said that, The Barge Inn was looking very well. Try to paint the Take Away. The Canal Hotel was very well presented again this year with good use of flowers, congratulations. The Garda Station has become a terrible eyesore and the on-going problem is noted at Canal Stores. It is good to see that some of the derelict buildings have been removed; it is still a little bit untidy but is a bit of an improvement. Outside Mullaney's and the Post Office were both litter free, whereas outside Melds, small sprinklings of litter were noted. The GAA park was also noted with a nice new entrance; try to work on the car park as weeds were evident. The Credit Union premises was okay on day of adjudication. There is considerable room for improvement here - you must address this in your five year plan.

LITTER CONTROL

Apart from the places mentioned above, i.e. outside Melds, litter was not a problem this year. It was very good to see the improvement at Fr. Murphy Park. The Main Street by the canal was also very neat and tidy, apart from the Take Away/Melds, where small sprinklings of litter were evident.

TIDINESS

It was nice to see that the lamp posts were freshly painted, as were the bollards and railings. Try to paint the wall by the open space to the right of the entrance to Fr. Murphy Park. It was encouraging to see that the telephone kiosk was freshly painted also, well done. These all helped in creating a tidy appearance and were helped, no doubt, by the good maintenance of the grassed area by the harbour.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The adjudicators would especially like to congratulate all the residents in Fr. Murphy Park on the excellent improvement noted here. There was nice shrubbery on the left hand side which was totally litter free. Try to work on the grassed area towards the rear of the park for the coming year. St. Brigids Terrace was also well presented this year, with flower tubs and planting noted and edged grass which showed attention to detail. There is room for some premises to improve - perhaps the first house on the approach from the slip way could be painted up.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach road from Lowtown/Allenwood, try to avoid the use of weed killer if possible. There is a very attractive view of the bridge and of the Canal Hotel from this approach. Approaching by the slipway, landscaping is needed in this area and try to consider planting more trees. On the approach road from Prosperous, a great improvement has been noted, with flowers at the sign. Closer in, verges would have benefited from cutting, although it was nice to see wildflowers growing, e.g. honeysuckle. The resurfacing and provision of footpath and fencing has helped greatly in improving the appearance and wildflowers were noted on the right hand side in the wildlife area which is encouraging. Approaching Robertstown from Milltown, an improvement could be made in the presentation of the verges - try also to improve the sign. Try to remove the Sewage Scheme sign on the approach from Prosperous.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The adjudicators have noted some improvements in Robertstown this year. A continued effort is needed. By the Canal Hotel and the harbour area is well presented as usual. It is encouraging to see improvements at Fr. Murphy Park. Some derelict buildings have been removed. The adjudicators look forward to the submission of your detailed five year work programme.