

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **STRAFFAN**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 25-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17
Landscaping	40	25
The Built Environment	40	27
Litter Control	40	25
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	192

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the new format of the 1996 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your questionnaire and map which were helpful during the course of adjudication. The adjudicators look forward to the submission of your detailed five year work programme. You have a very attractive village which has largely maintained its village atmosphere - try to continue to ensure that this is protected and you might also consider developing one or two projects in the longer term. Good luck in this regard.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Try to expand the tree planting that has been carried out to date, e.g. at the Church grounds. This will benefit Straffan in years to come. A nice brook was noted on the School Road. Try to get the children involved in some wildlife projects as this will create awareness and might encourage the development of habitats in a number of areas around the village. 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

Firstly, the adjudicators would like to commend the effort made at the perimeter of the K-Club. Within the grounds of the K-Club and golf course there is also a fantastic presentation. Congratulations. Within the village itself, the two grassed areas were relatively well maintained. At Coarse Moor Estate and Lodge Park Estate were very well presented with seating and flowers noted. Flower tubs were also noted on the main road. The shrubbery could have been better presented on the school road, as grass was overgrown and small sprinklings of litter were noted. The entrance to the graveyard is very attractive; perhaps you might consider the restoration of the graveyard itself as one of your long terms projects. It is also very nice to see attractive stone walls throughout the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

O'Rourke's was litter free. The K-Club was a magnificent presentation, as already stated above. The Straffan Inn was well presented and freshly painted, but perhaps better bollards could be put in, in place of the existing structures as they are grossly out of proportion to the building. Both Churches and grounds were also very well presented. Congratulations in this regard. The school could be brightened up somewhat. The only really negative area this year is the presentation of the hall which was quite disappointing; shrubbery was badly maintained, litter was evident and the location of the gas tank is somewhat inappropriate.

LITTER CONTROL

In general, litter control is quite good throughout the village of Straffan. However, for the size of the village it was disappointing to note litter evident at the planting at the 30MPH sign on the approach from the K-Club. Small amounts were noted on the school road - perhaps litter bins might be helpful here. Litter was also noted at the shrubbery of the hall. More vigilance is needed in this regard as it appeared that this had not been tackled for some time.

TIDINESS

Generally, Straffan is a neat and tidy village with a few negative impacts. The grass growing by the walls take from the overall appearance, e.g. near the shrubbery on the approach from the K-Club on the right hand side. Also, try to watch the damage to signs, e.g. the Caution Children at Play sign could be improved, and some graffiti was noted on the sign on School Road. As a suggestion in your long term plan you might consider the undergrounding of overhead wires; the use of more traditional lamp posts

would also be a nice feature for the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Nice use of flowers were noted at the house adjacent to ORourkes, well done. Straffan Cottage was beautifully presented at the time of adjudication. At Coarse Moor Estate, there was a very good presentation on both the School Road entrance and also on the grassed area. Some of the paving in the park needs to be replaced. Good individual efforts were noted within this park and the area was very much litter free. St. Brigids Terrace also had a very nice presentation with good planting also noted at the entrance. Very nice well maintained cottages were noted near the graveyard. Lodge Park is an excellent presentation. Overall, quite a good performance under this category.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach to Straffan to Kill, the left hand side has an excellent presentation, helped no doubt by the excellent presentation to the K-Club with planting and closer in a new wall, resurfacing and new footpath noted - unfortunately, this work highlights the lack of work on the right hand side, which is quite disappointing. On the School Road, the left hand side was okay with small sprinklings of litter noted. On the right hand side, grass was overgrown. The Celbridge Road was also quite bad, no verges had been cut and landscaping is needed. Nice stone wall and roses were noted further in. Generally, there is room for improvement in this category but it is good to see the excellent presentation by the K-Club.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Straffan is potentially a very attractive village which could do well in this competition with continued efforts. The village was looking quite well at the time of adjudication. Good individual efforts are apparent in the residential areas. Good luck in your further improvements and the adjudicators look forward to their visit in 1997.