

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SUNCROFT**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	24
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	24
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	173

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the new format of the Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your detailed questionnaire and map which were very helpful during the course of adjudication. Suncroft, in terms of its developmental approach is looking quite well this year. There are little pockets which must be tackled. Overall, you have a very neat and tidy village, with good presentation of buildings this year. Well done. The adjudicators look forward to the presentation of your detailed five year work programme for next year's competition.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your proposal to develop a nature trail project is commendable and good luck in this regard. Try to avoid the use of weed killers; for example, at the GAA grounds. The stream running throughout the village is a nice feature. Try to, perhaps, promote more wildflowers in this regard. There is potential for greater nature conservation in the village. 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. One area where you might perhaps have this would be in the grounds of the school to the right and rear in this open field could be perhaps one area where you could involve the children and develop a natural amenity or wildlife area. It is nice to see that the hedge rows were trimmed neatly, without excessive cutting.

LANDSCAPING

Generally, all areas were relatively well maintained within the centre of the village. It was nice to see that the bridge has been rebuilt and also the grass was being cut at the bend at time of adjudication although the shrubbery was being weeded, this had not been completed, giving a slightly untidy appearance. Tree planting was noted in the cemetery near the Credit Union and was relatively well presented. Well done. The grounds were also nicely presented with flowers noted. The other cemetery grounds on the approach road were also relatively well maintained with planting noted outside. The pump area was very well presented. Well done this year. Within the GAA Grounds, the playground area needed cutting and the swings needed to be replaced. Litter was unfortunately a problem in this car parking area. Nice shrubbery was noted down from McNallys and grassed areas to the front of the park were well maintained.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Overall, a very good presentation in this section this year. Next to the Credit Union is unfortunately a bit of an eyesore with the shutters down at time of adjudication. The Credit Union itself was clean and litter free. Morans had a very good presentation, as did the Croft Inn this year. Outside McNallys was litter free with a nice new litter bin noted. It was also good to see that the Church was also well presented, as were its grounds. Also the perimeter wall had been painted. Similarly, the school grounds were very well presented. There is a large grassed area to the right of the school which could be tackled. The perimeter wall of the school was freshly painted at time of adjudication.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter and tidiness now comprises 20% of the overall mark in this competition so it is important that you maintain a strong vigilance in this area. Generally, Suncroft was relatively litter free at time of adjudication this year. Small amounts of litter was noted at the shrubbery by the bridge, but it wasn't too bad. It is nice to see new litter bins outside McNallys. The only area where litter was particularly bad was in the car park of the GAA, which seems to be an on-going problem. Try to tackle this for next year.

TIDINESS

Generally, there was an overall impression of tidiness throughout the village of Suncroft this year. Signs were relatively clean. The only particularly bad area seems to be long grass which was noted growing in a number of areas; for example, at the new pole on the front green and also around the stones at the back of the park. Perhaps the Tidy Towns Committee might invest in a strimmer or try to have some local business sponsor it for the coming year. This would help improve the area immensely.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Very good individual efforts were noted throughout the village this year, both in individual houses and in residential areas. Good individual efforts were noted with houses on the approach road from Seamuss Bridge; for example, the second house and the house by the 30MPH sign. Within Ard Brid, it was generally, tidy but try to paint the railings - resurfacing would also improve the appearance. Good individual efforts are apparent. However, one or two of the houses within this park really would have benefited from painting. Try to kerb the grassed area and trim the grass by the trees. Also paint the bin. Some good individual efforts were noted on the main road coming in, outside this park. Within Church View Estate, the front grassed green was very well trimmed at the time of adjudication but, again, strimming by the trees and edges was needed. The back streets were relatively well maintained and litter free. Towards the back of this park, some parts weren't as good as long grass tended to grow up around the trees, etc. Try to cut the grass at the boulders. The adjudicators noted some good examples within this estate, for example, Numbers 3586, 3578 and 3579 to name but a few.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Generally, within the village, the main roads were relatively well presented. They were litter free at the time of adjudication. The only thing that took from the overall appearance was some long grass growing. With regard to the approach road from Spensor Bridge, it is nice to see work completed on the new bridge and work taking place at the shrubbery opposite. Closer in, a nice stone name plate was noted with a very good presentation here and good planting. Also, the verges and hedged area were quite good. On the approach road to Suncroft from Kildare, it was looking very well with several flower beds noted. The grass was very well maintained and hedging neatly cut back. Overall, quite a good performance in this section.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is very good individual effort by a number of premises - you have to maintain vigilance, particularly in the area of long grass and weeds, which take from the overall appearance. You have a relatively small village and it is only through co-operation of the residents, the business sector and the relevant local authority that you will continue to make improvements. The adjudicators look forward to the submission of a number of innovative ideas and proposals under your five year work programme. Good luck for 1997.