

Tidy Towns 1996

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SPINK**
County : **LAOIS**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	16
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14
Landscaping	40	22
The Built Environment	40	20
Litter Control	40	34
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20
General Impression	10	4
TOTAL MARK	300	162

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The fund raising effort and the use of the FAS scheme and the Summer Employment Scheme as described in the answers to the questionnaire, are impressive. Because Spink covers such a wide area, the terms of the Tidy Towns Competition may not be appropriate to it and may indeed be unfair to the local effort involved. The fact is, Spink is not a town or village as designated in this competition - there is no geographical village 'feeling' but there is certainly a community feeling and perhaps it would be more suitable to describe it as a Parish. This will be considered before the end of the year. (Your sketch map, for example, gives no idea that there is over two miles between the picnic area above the pub and the sports field.)

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is good to note the existence of the Gun Club sanctuary and that hedge trimming takes place only when wildlife will not be disturbed. Signposting of nature walks in the delightful areas near church and school might be considered.

LANDSCAPING

The picnic area was looking most attractive on adjudication day. (It is not, however, of a quality suitable for entering in the national landscape competition, yet.) The sylvan nature of the neighbourhood is appreciated, with fine mature hardwoods everywhere. Fairly trim hedges and verges were favourably noted at salient points separated by a mile or two. The school grounds are beautifully looked after; the Community Field a mile to the west is unexceptional. Planted screening of the Avonmore factory will undoubtedly improve with the years.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The fine Church on a bye-road was well maintained, with neat lawns and forecourt. The school on another bye-road and the Hall next door were extremely spruce. A pity that there is a derelict building in this area in what is otherwise a picturesque spot. The pub looked smart.

LITTER CONTROL

There was no appreciable litter in any of the locations visited around Spink on adjudication. Congratulations to all concerned.

TIDINESS

Absence of litter was a real plus in the general tidiness. Not all roadside verges were well cut - and it would of course be impossible to trim all the verges linking the different parts of the parish.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, there is inconsistency in the maintenance of dwellings. Some, especially in the vicinity of the school, were beautifully kept; others less notable.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads were not particularly impressive, except by the picnic area as one arrives from Carlow. Areas around bridges were well kept. New signs were appreciatively noted.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

An admirable community effort over a widespread area of countryside.