

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ATHLACCA**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14
Landscaping	40	19
The Built Environment	40	24
Litter Control	40	18
Tidiness	20	8
Residential Areas	30	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	163

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Although you have not submitted a 3/5 year plan of action for Athlacca, you would appear to have a clear idea of what you would like to achieve for your town in the future. However, a strategy for developing the town's strong points and, indeed tackling problem areas is important for next year's competition. This should be based on the constructive remarks made in this report and enlisting the help of a professional consultant to formulate a 3/5 year plan of action for the town. The enthusiasm is obviously there, and your established relationships with Limerick County Council, the ESB and FAS will, hopefully, be of great benefit to the community as a whole.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Perhaps the best approach to this issue of wildlife/natural amenities would be to contact local environmental groups and experts who could advise you and provide you with the information you need to tackle this broad-ranging issue. From there you can then identify the wildlife habitats of your area and see what varieties of animals, birds, fish and plantlife these attract. Involve the local schoolchildren in this project - they will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the wealth of wildlife in their locality. The hedgerows on the Bruff road were a riot of colour-bursting with a profusion of wild flowers. The waterside area needs clearing up. It was quite weedy and displayed evidence of dumping, notably a wheel and an old churn.

LANDSCAPING

The public green spaces were well kept if a little bare - the empty log-surrounded flower bed to the Village Green looked quite sad. The graveyard was simply presented with its witch's hat spire, although the timber sign needs some attention. An attractive landscaping feature is that at the Angler's Rest. It is a delightful combination of trees, permanent planting and flowers to a dry stone wall base. The forecourt area itself needs more attention in terms of landscaping. The stone wall to the missing village pump will make an attractive feature when developed. The other rusty pump near Muintir na Tire should be restored. At the moment it sports an abundance of weeds and a corrugated iron sheet. The wall to the graveyard adjacent to the church should be painted. More use should be made of the Morning Star River area in this regard. Some stone restoration work is necessary to the bridge and the adjacent empty graveled space could be used as a picnic area.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The handwritten sign at the charming Post Office was admired although the building could be freshened before next year's competition. The area around the creamery is very untidy, weedy and unfortunate. It creates a very bad impression. O'Riordan's Angler's Rest was very fresh in a yellow colour. The Shop Local had no sign but an abundance of cluttering stickers in the window. The attractive stone pub on the corner was being renovated and sported some colourful window boxes. The renovation work to Mrs. Shire's house should contribute greatly to the community. The school was very fresh, although the boundary wall had yet to be painted. Some landscaping solution should be reached in order to disguise the prominent oil barrel. The playground area was rather overgrown and the gate needed a fresh coat of paint. The Church was very fresh although the tarmacadamed grounds look quite bare-perhaps gravel would be a more appropriate material. The adjacent graveyard was well maintained. The Muintir na Tire hall was very fresh with colourful window boxes.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was a problem on the day. Quite a lot of litter was noted by the bridge, to the Village Green, to the graveyard boundary wall and further down by Mrs. Shire's.

TIDINESS

More attention could also be paid to this category. The Choice Fryer burger bar looked quite unsightly. Weed control was also an issue. There were some noted to the graveyard, near the Bridge Inn on the Kilmallock road, to the bare graveled area by the stained perspex telephone, to the base of the kerb by Cois Abhann housing estate and to the kerbside by the priest's house and school.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category was quite good. An attractive garden opposite the bridge was admired, as was a delightful one filled with honeysuckle and irises opposite the pub. Some of the boundary walls to the Village Green need some attention in terms of painting. A house beside Muintir na Tire also needs attention.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard of presentation in this category could have been higher. The yield sign at the Bruff road junction could be freshened up. The road was very overgrown, virtually obscuring the "welcome to Athlacca" sign. The Kilmallock road was quite potholed and overgrown.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Athlacca is a town of great charm and character which has a wealth of historical heritage. It has the potential to do extremely well in the competition, provided a strong strategy for tackling the problem areas of the town.