

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **HOSPITAL**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14
Landscaping	40	24
The Built Environment	40	25
Litter Control	40	18
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	162

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

From your detailed response to the questionnaire you would appear to have a good working relationship with the relevant local statutory bodies. For next year's competition it is important to have formulated a detailed professional three or five year plan of action for your town in order to give yourselves a positive objective for resolving the problem areas and promote the positive assets within the community.

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.

LANDSCAPING

A lot of effort had obviously been made on both an individual and collective basis throughout the town of Hospital. Although, some work could be done to develop the riverside area - the broken benches to the open space on the grassy bank with the stone base to the water's edge by the church car park looked sadly neglected. The new stone feature at the cross-roads was greatly admired. There was an abundance of colourful hanging baskets, those adorning Kevin Larkin and Sons being worthy of a special mention. The new trees are coming along nicely, and the daisies on the rock outcrop looked magnificent. Some of the flowerbeds were quite weedy and looked sadly desolate, particularly on the Kiltegan road. The landscaping to the stone walls surrounding the church car park looked magnificent, as did the old graveyard and ruins which were beautifully maintained.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both the public and commercial premises of the town generally looked well on adjudication day. The Garda Station appeared very fresh apart from the cills. The library was also very fresh, as was the school - although the gates could be freshened up, the grounds looked very well. The church and grounds looked very well. However, the car park was quite potholed and weedy and the frame at the entrance required a fresh coat of paint. Although the convent grounds were beautifully maintained, the building itself could be freshened, and the railings were rusty. The AIB could be freshened up before next year's competition. The entrance area to the Kenmare Castle B&B looked neglected and overgrown. M. O'Leary's looked cheerful with an abundance of plants for sale outside. Wood's, John J.M. Power's, J O'Sullivan's, English's bookmaker's and the Post Office are fine traditional shop-fronts. The drapers, grocers and outfitters is another fine facade which would be well worth restoring to its former glory. Davern's facade appeared to be quite flaky. and should be freshened, as could the bicycle shop. The use of inappropriate plastic signage to shop and pub fronts in the town should be discouraged. The recently sold millinery warehouse is another very fine building. Seanachai Teach OI looked very cheerful with its overflowing hanging baskets and window boxes. The dereliction on Main Street beside the Credit Union looked unfortunate.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control on the day could have been better. There was a light scattering all along Main Street. The yellow plastic litter bins should be replaced as they stain very badly. The battered litter bin to the front of the school looked particularly unfortunate. Some litter was noted in the river, including crisp bags and a newspaper, and at the Knockeaney junction.

TIDINESS

On first impressions, Hospital looked quite neat and tidy. However, on closer inspection, weed control was a problem. No weeds were apparent to Main Street itself, but outlying areas were quite bad. Weeds were noted to a boundary fence of one house and the forecourt area of another on the Bruff road. A lot of weeds were apparent to the Dairygold Co-op stores. The concrete post and chainlink fence to the yard area should be replaced with something giving a more permanent appearance. The excessive use of stickers in the windows of both Spar and O'Sullivan's gave these facades a very cluttered appearance. Some rusty gates were also noted.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of presentation of private residential properties in the town was very high on the day. There are some very attractive houses and gardens on the Bruff road, while the houses on Main Street were very fresh. Some of the boundary walls to the housing estate looked rather neglected, although the trees are coming along nicely. The metal fence to the front of the retirement housing was quite cracked. However, the landscaping was much admired with the trees in flower-filled stone bases. Most of the houses and boundaries on the Mitchelstown road and opposite the school looked very fresh, although some need freshening. The attractive stone wall to the large house on the Mitchelstown road was much admired. The freshly white washed cottage and boundary wall with the beautiful peony roses looked quite magnificent.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category could have been higher. The Bruff road had roughly cut verges and although the weeds had obviously been killed they had not yet been cleared. The simple "Hospital" sign was charming, but its supporting post was quite rusty. The yield sign was faded and a messy yard area near the junction with Main Street created a bad impression. Signage could have been presented to a higher standard. Some directional signs at the crossroads were quite faded, the yield sign at the school was cracked and signage at the junction of the Mitchelstown road was grubby. However, the traditional square nameplate signs look marvellous and should be restored to their former glory. There were weeds to the kerbside along the Emly road, and one boundary wall looked badly in need of re-whitewashing. The laneways and side streets along Main Street should be further developed (perhaps by creating incidental spaces) as, at the moment, they look quite neglected.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The busy town of Hospital was, by and large, presented well on adjudication day. However, there are still weak areas which need to be developed in order to improve your position in the competition. Hopefully the constructive remarks made in this report will help (along with a professional plan for the town) to give a clear direction for the future development of Hospital.