

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **PATRCKSWELL-LOUGH GUR**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	22
The Built Environment	40	20
Litter Control	40	19
Tidiness	20	7
Residential Areas	30	14
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	148

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your plans for the town will certainly keep you occupied until the year 2000! The projects formulated by your consultant would appear to be both achievable and practical. It is important to formulate a programme in order to identify the weak areas, and stress the town's strengths in order that you may focus on these problem areas and promote the town's strong points.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The area of Lough Gur was rich in an abundance of natural phenomena! The profusion of swans and wonderful yellow bog irises looked splendid. Indeed the whole lakeside /park area was a positive hive of activity. Maybe the best approach to this topic of wildlife/natural amenities would be to approach your local environmental groups and experts who could advise and assist you with the information you need to tackle this extensive area. From there you can then identify the wildlife habitats of your locale and establish what varieties of animals, birds, fish and plant life these attract. Include the local schoolchildren in this project as you seem to have a strongly established relationship with them. They will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the abundance of wildlife in their local environs.

LANDSCAPING

Within the town of Patrickswell itself, the landscaped area to front of the Esso forecourt looked very well. Perhaps the area opposite the Post Office at Holy Cross could be developed. The wide tarmacadamed space that opens out on entering Main Street, Patrickswell would also benefit from sensitive landscaping. The village pump at the Lough Gur Crossroads was simply presented incorporating a delightful presentation of lupins. The landscaping to the lake and Visitors Centre was magnificent, incorporating as it did a combination of landscaping types and striking an attractive balance between wild and cultivated planting. The area was relatively litter-free.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The attractive shopfront of Riordan's was admired, but could be freshened up. The Patrickswell Enterprise Centre was very fresh with neatly maintained grounds. Lucey's restaurant and foodstore was also well presented. The attractive modern church was admired. Its carpark area was well kept if a little austere-some landscaping would soften the somewhat harsh effect created. The Post Office at Holy Cross was in need of freshening up. The sign was missing a couple of letters, namely an "f" & a "p". The gate and timber sign at the car park area of the Visitors Centre were in bad order, while the Liscannor flagstone step mentioned in last year's report was still missing. Some litter was noted at the steps. The thatched Visitor's Centre itself was beautifully maintained. The Red Cellar pub opposite the entrance to the Visitors Centre looked well; however the forecourt/picnic area could be improved upon-perhaps by means of careful landscaping.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is an area that could be improved upon. There was a lot of litter apparent in Patrickswell itself, and some more was noted at the steps of the Visitors Centre.

TIDINESS

Weed control was a major problem on Adjudication Day-quite a lot of outbreaks were visible throughout the town. Weeds were noted to the base of the stone wall beside M. Quirk's, to the front of the Village Boutique and to the kerbside at Mc Dermott's. The problem was especially apparent at the housing estate leading to the GAA grounds.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The open common area to the housing estate on the Limerick approach looked well. Cu Cualan looked very fresh indeed. Most of the houses within the town itself were very well maintained. However, a very grubby white house near the church created a very bad impression.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The verges on the Limerick road were neatly trimmed and the daisies on the bank looked magnificent. However, the sign was very grubby. The ruined church and graveyard along the road from Holy Cross to Lough Gur looked splendid. However, the road itself was in bad condition. Rather a lot of weeds were apparent to the stone boundary wall at the stone circles, the gate badly needed painting and the "no camping" sign was very grubby. The roadsides in this area were also rather overgrown with both grass and cow parsley obscuring the signage. Your plans for this area were especially welcome as it could look truly magnificent. The drive around the lake is splendid with its overhanging trees creating a marvelous dappled light. The road from the Visitors Centre was rather overgrown and the road sign at the crossroads on the main road was very grubby-however, the wild daisies were greatly admired.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

As mentioned in last year's report, the area you are trying to cover is truly vast! This must cause problems in terms of controlling/monitoring the area. Limerick County Council should be pressurised into providing more signposting, as navigating the area can be quite confusing.