

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **ATHBOY**  
County : **MEATH**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	23
The Built Environment	40	27
Litter Control	40	23
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>172</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator would like to thank the Committee for a very helpful questionnaire, map and supporting documentation on the village. The Committee has certainly been active and signs of this are all around the village. As part of the new style competition you will be required to submit next year a 3/5 year work programme/plan which should set out clearly your objectives for each year covered. Do not adopt unrealistic objectives, a limited number of targets which are achievable each year is far more likely to yield results.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There is potential for greater nature conservation in and around the village. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats of your catchment area and see what species of animal, bird and fish these attract. Why not invite your local environmental experts and groups to get involved to advise you and provide you with the specialist information you require. You may even like to involve the school children or VEC students. The river running through the village has great natural potential in this area.

### LANDSCAPING

Your choice of trees shrubs and flowers and where they have been sited are to be commended. The area up at St Josephs Villas which is new is to be commended on its presentation. The adjudicator also noted that a new stone wall feature plus stone flower beds was being developed at the junction of the Devlin/Ballivor Roads. This will certainly enhance the junction when completed. The green area beyond the VEC could be further developed with maybe one or two flower beds. All of the car parking areas appeared clean and tidy but lacked a bit of colour i.e., some colourful floral tubs or small beds.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There are some magnificent traditional old frontages on the majority of businesses throughout the village. There are too many to mention by name for fear I would leave someone out. The Committee should use the majority as a way of encouraging the few that didn't seem to put the effort in. The businesses in and around the main street except for one or two displayed a lovely selection of colourful window and hanging floral baskets. Well done everyone involved. The main public buildings including the church, schools, VEC and graveyard were all well presented. The library was looking a lot better than last year. There are still some problems in relation to derelict buildings in the village particularly on the Cloran Road. It was disappointing to see the Church car park had been occupied by travellers.

### LITTER CONTROL

Litter control on the approach roads and in most of the back areas was very good. However litter was evident in the main street, Bridge Street, even though there was a plentiful supply of bins. More attention is needed to litter control in the main street.

### TIDINESS

In general Athboy appeared relatively tidy with one or two minor exceptions i.e. litter in the main street and the derelict sites on Cloran Road and Kildalkey Road would need more attention. Perhaps more regular spraying would eliminate this problem.

### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residents have once again come out and presented their estates very well. Beech Grove and the small housing estate on the Trim/Dublin road were well presented. St Josephs Villas was also looking well, however, St James Terrace had a problem with the green area to its front as weeds were growing and

the grass needed cutting. Other residential properties specifically in the approach roads should be praised for the standard of their premises. Church View estate was relatively okay but the grass verges to the front badly needed to be cut.

#### ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The adjudicator visited all of the approach roads and found them to be relatively well kept with all the approach signs clean and visible. The sign on the Cloran Road was very old and may need to be replaced. Some of the approaches had weeds growing at the kerbsides and I have already mentioned these. On the hill of Ward road there was an old floral tribute I presume as the result of an accident. Perhaps a permanent flower bed would be the correct way to mark this spot. Most of the back areas and car parks were all clean and tidy except for the church car park as a result of the arrival of the travellers.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

Athboy has made steady progress on last year. As the marking system has changed this may not be totally reflected in the 1996 marks but I can assure you that the village has come on and with the help of your committee will continue to progress.