

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SMITHBORO**
County : **MONAGHAN**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13
Landscaping	40	21
The Built Environment	40	24
Litter Control	40	20
Tidiness	20	9
Residential Areas	30	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	164

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the welcome map and the details of the work in progress. Clearly from your previous adjudications Smithboro is a town to be watched! Unfortunately on the day of adjudication you did not meet the expectations of this adjudicator. You need to refocus your efforts, perhaps regenerate your community to support you and pay more particular attention to the house keeping required within the Tidy Towns Competition. Obviously you have done enormous work over the past year but it seems to this adjudicator at least that in 1996 things slipped a little!

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It was good to note that you are doing some work on the lake two miles outside the village and you are to be congratulated on this. Under the wildlife programme you can gain valuable marks with an imaginative approach. This should be an eco- friendly one, perhaps involving local school children. Avoid over-prettification.

LANDSCAPING

Clearly you have spent an enormous amount of time planting and bedding throughout the village. It was good to note the screening of the lorry depot on the Monaghan Road maturing and that the Grove's Turkey Plant is so well maintained. Also noted was the nice bedding at the turn for the Catholic Church. Nonetheless, some neglected points were noted. For instance, the weeds noted in the shrubberies on the banks outside the Old Peoples Homes houses still remain. Problem areas such as this must be attended to.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As previously noted the barracks were in good condition and other shops and businesses on the main street were well maintained. The private gardens in the estates were largely looked after well. It was a pity to note the neglected flower boxes and bunting on the Skule Inn.

LITTER CONTROL

There was a general sprinkling of litter throughout the areas inspected, particularly in the green areas, in Muladuff Estate and in the car park area of the Catholic Church. Also noted was the poor condition of the litter bins on the main street, which were previously commented upon in last year's adjudication.

TIDINESS

Similarly here there was a need for a general sweep up. Tidiness of road surfaces and footpaths in the estates, on the main street and around the churches should be improved.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The Muladuff Estate and the Old Peoples Home individually had nice gardens and they are to be commended on this. Also noted was the lovely gravel garden in the house on the left as one approaches Grove's Turkeys.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads are Smithboro's best asset in this adjudication. They are maturing very well and are very well maintained. Congratulations on this.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

As is apparent from this adjudication, there is much room for improvement in Smithboro. It may be timely to refocus your efforts and re-evaluate where you are going within the competition. You can still do extremely well, so do not be dismayed. Simply regroup and get on with the good work. Looking forward to seeing you in 1997.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (14/08/96)

This adjudicator has passed through Smithboro several times earlier on in the year and has been very impressed with the display of spring flowering daffodils. Try to identify local wildlife and perhaps develop a wildlife garden with a display board and information regarding the wildlife which features in the hinterland. The new picnic table at the Scotstown junction was spoiled in its presentation by over-long grass and by weed growth along adjacent kerbs. Shrubberies and trees around the village and on approach roads are an attractive feature of Smithboro. Unfortunately plastic neon signs are still evident in the village and for a village the size of Smithboro, this is quite inappropriate. A number of properties were in need of painting to freshen their appearance, for example the Superstore, the garage and some boundary walls. While litter control was good, it wasn't excellent on second adjudication. Litter control was at its weakest on the brow of the hill on the Roslea Road from where there is a fine view of the town. A number of side areas were untidy in presentation and grounds to some properties were overgrown. Weed growth along the kerbs out the Clones Road from the picnic area in towards the village was also a problem. Some items of street furniture such as seating and bins were in need of painting. Well done on the refurbishment of the bridge wall. The roadside boundary wall of the sports grounds is unfortunate in its presentation.