

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **INCH**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17
Landscaping	40	27
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	26
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	192

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The excellent submission and map highlighted the commitment and the achievements of the committee to date. This is an excellent example of the development ethos being put into practice where a committee is able to harness and mobilise all the skills and energies of all sections of the community in order to get work done. Clubs like the GAA Club and individuals are to be praised for their positive response. The committee has forged such strong links with the Local Authority and other agencies such as FAS that it is in a position to ensure that the wellbeing of the village is always to the forefront. Involving the schools is another very positive initiative because it gives school children a sense of appreciation of their own place.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Again it was a very positive approach by the committee to write to all farmers and encourage them to accommodate nesting season. As part of a practical project I would suggest that with the help of a local environment specialist that the school children be involved in identifying the habitats for wildlife in your immediate area.

LANDSCAPING

The quality of the landscaping in the village and its surrounds is excellent with a mixture of selected trees, hedgerows, and beautiful flower and shrub beds complimented by lovely stone work. The Thurles / Holycross Junction is a very inviting entrance to the village because of the effect of a well planned planting arrangement. The Borrisoleigh Road is also admired for its excellent tree planting.

Work was ongoing on a number of new shrub beds on adjudication day. The landscaping excellence has not been confined to the main through-ways. The standard of garden presentation in some of the houses in the village was on par with any where in the country. This category is an obvious strong point of the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

All buildings, with one or two exceptions, were very well presented, most had been recently painted and as mentioned the gardens were in excellent shape with well maintained boundary walls and fences. The Church deserves special mention as does the school even though the boundary wall was a bit dirty. The Community Centre and GAA Grounds were also in very good condition, indeed it is noticeable that the GAA Club plays a very active part in the tidy towns effort. The Ragg Inn and the adjoining house with the lovely garden deserve mention for their efforts as does Bretts Garage and Bouladuff PO. It is a pity that the old thatch house on the Church Road cannot be restored to its former glory. All in all a good sense of pride in the presentation of buildings in the village.

LITTER CONTROL

The litter control was very good, there was no litter to be seen in the village or scattered on the approach roads. There must be regular litter round ups, and again it is good to see the school being involved by way of an anti litter competition

TIDINESS

As was the case last year there are a small number of boundary walls that need painting. Signs `Welcome to the Ragg` and `Slainte` could also do with painting. There were one or two posters on poles, this type of fly posting makes a place untidy if it gets out of control, ensure that this does not happen. Otherwise the village was neat and tidy and yes a few new farm gates were noted.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The appearance of most houses as you come in from all approaches was very good. The Church Road houses collectively looked that little bit better than the others, a few boundary walls need painting. The Clohessy Place residents are making great efforts to upgrade their area and are succeeding - there is always need to keep improving.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads were in good condition, grass margins were sufficiently cut back and the approaches were enhanced by the excellent tree and shrub/flower planting with most of the houses well maintained. The Borrisoleigh / Nenagh Road which came in for comment last year has improved because of the tree planting that has been undertaken. The Thurles Road as always was in very good condition with great colour provided by flower beds. The Church Road is adequately enhanced by the standard of presentation of houses. The Templemore Road, on which the cemetery looks well maintained, is also in good condition.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Inch/Bouladuff has been receiving good ratings in the competition over the last number of years, this is due in no small measure to the experience of and the effort put in by a dedicated committee. Harnessing support for any activity in a small community can often be an arduous and thankless task, but as in this case it can be very rewarding when one gets the co operation of all sections of the parish. There is a need for new initiatives to be put in place by the committee and an even greater effort by the community as a whole to further improve the standing of the village. With the same level of co-operation as before it can be done.