

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13
Landscaping	40	18
The Built Environment	40	23
Litter Control	40	18
Tidiness	20	8
Residential Areas	30	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	142

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The submitted application form gives very little by way of information on any plans for the future . As with last year there is evidence of good individual effort but it seems that there is very little communal involvement. To succeed in the competition it is necessary to have a more planned approach. I would suggest that a simple work programme over a 3 year period be put in place. This should have simple objectives that are achievable.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As a Tidy Towns committee you can play an important role identifying areas within the village and surrounds that might be a suitable starting point for a wildlife type project. There is bound to be wildlife habitats within the greater village. Loughmore has a natural amenity in the river and bridge , the combination of this with the stone walls and flower /shrub beds adjacent to the Old Mill makes the whole area an attractive feature. This could be your ideal starting point for any proposed wildlife project.

LANDSCAPING

The aforementioned stone flower/shrub bed at Bridge is an example of effective planting it is hoped that when the proposed planting scheme for the village is complete there will be a nice mix of trees, hedgerows in keeping with the rural setting, and shrubs. This will enhance the village immensely. Individual householders are contributing by taking it upon themselves to improve their premises by providing flower and shrub beds.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The vast majority of buildings and their surrounds are reasonably well presented. Youngs Pub and the surrounding car park was clean and tidy, the other pub (apologies for not remembering the name) was also in good condition, unfortunately the car park could do with a tidy up and weed control was not good. The Church and cemetery were in reasonable good condition and the railings looked like they were cleaned up. Again the old graveyard and church ruins are not at their best and need to be attended to. The Old Mill and the ruins of the 15th Century Castle could be an ideal focal point as a visitor attraction. The Old Creamery on the Templemore Rd is still in a bad state of repair and is now becoming a major eyesore. This is a building that relates to a different era. Surely something could be done to preserve it and maybe develop it as a historical museum. At present it is contributing nothing positive to the place. The phone box in the village needs to be repainted.

LITTER CONTROL

The litter control was adequate on the day of adjudication. A few more bins are needed in the outskirts of the village.

TIDINESS

There are still too many sites that are extremely untidy. If these are not addressed and cleaned up Loughmore will still struggle in the competition. I have already earmarked the bridge as a possible area for any proposed nature project. At present it is rather untidy and needs to be cleaned.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the private residences in the village were extremely well maintained and really are contributing in a very positive manner. It's a pity that other aspects of the village are not up to the same standard. It would be unfair to single out any individual residence because all, with the exception of one or two, are very good. The council terrace on the outskirts of the village is well presented and they deserve mention.

This a farming village and some of the premises have farm buildings attached. These are also well maintained.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

As was the case last year the approach roads could do with more attention. Grass margins need to be cut back, signs are not clearly visible, kerbs in the village need to be refurbished. This sector should be a number one priority for next years competition

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Loughmore is a nice rural village off the main routes. It has number of attractions, most notably the Castle and Old Mill, that could be developed. There seems to be great individual effort on the part of householders but that effort does not seem to be coming through on a collective basis. I would encourage the committee to try and involve more people to make a collective effort to do more for their village.