

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13
Landscaping	40	21
The Built Environment	40	21
Litter Control	40	21
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18
General Impression	10	4
TOTAL MARK	300	151

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Upperchurch was a new entrant in 1995. The Community Development group apparently worked with the local authority, Shannon Development, the ESB and others to continue improving the overall appearance of the village. The improvements since 1995 were noted by the adjudicator and the on-going work will greatly enhance the village. Over time Upperchurch will be most attractive. In future years, entry to the Competition will require each town and village to have a 3/5 year development plan setting out the amenities and facilities to be improved or provided, with targets and objectives for each years work programme. The map provided last year and again with this years entry form is a good record of improvements from year to year.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The village is essentially rural, some distance off the main road and the naturalness of its countryside setting should be reflected in the work of the Tidy Towns group. There is potential for greater nature conservation. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats of your catchment area and see what species of animals, birds and fish these attract. Look to your local environmental experts and groups to get involved.

LANDSCAPING

The completion of the lay-by and the shrubbery at the bridge was noted - a great improvement to this area since 1995. The roadside improvements and landscaping opposite the Community Hall on the corner is very attractive. The area outside the graveyard could be further improved and the broken fencing replaced. It is commendable that you have a separate group responsible for maintenance of the graveyard, where much work is needed to keep this area looking neat and tidy. It was noticeable that the grass margins at the turn off the Limerick road were being well maintained - this work could be extended to the closer-in approaches. The new boundary wall along the GAA grounds and the entrance improve this corner - however, the surface at the gate and along the wall needs better finishing. The planting around the shop and Post Office brightens up this part of the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church, the Church yard and grounds, Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto and entrances off both streets are all being well maintained. Scoil Iosogain - the building itself, the grounds and the grotto look well. The work on the Community Hall was noted but here the Ionad an Phobail sign should be re-done or replaced. The shop/Post Office, O'Cuinneains Pub, and the Health Board Clinic are well presented. The premises opposite O'Cuinneans could be repainted. The road out to Templederry, past the factory unit is the worst aspect of the whole village. Here the old school (St. Patricks ?) and the school yard, the open space opposite and the building/shed further on uphill on the left - must be included in any future development plan.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little litter noticed on the day of adjudication. The debris and rusting machinery etc already mentioned, out past the Church comes under this section and are reflected in the marks allocated.

TIDINESS

Outside of the above the village was otherwise neat and tidy throughout and is improving its place in the competition.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are not too many houses in or around the village but such as are appear to be making an effort and are well presented. The new houses for the elderly and the attractive new house on the adjoining site are very attractive - the local housing committee are to be commended.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads (comment has already been made above on the Templeberry road) are reasonably well maintained but the County Council should be encouraged to cut back the overgrowth on all approaches. Again, village signs should be provided on all the roads coming in to the village (the old name, Teampal Uachtar, could be included on these). The signs for the Holycross cycling route were noted and the need to improve the other fingerpost signs and area information board/map for visitors which were mentioned in the entry form notes would be supported by the adjudicator.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression is that the continuing efforts of the development group, its sub-committee and the support from the community and the statutory agencies are improving the appearance of the village. A planned, co-ordinated approach over the next few years would greatly enhance the village for the community and visitors to Upperchurch alike.