

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASTLEPOLLARD**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12
Landscaping	40	26
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	28
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	188

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The Community is to be congratulated on its overall approach to the development of the town. In many respects you are a model for other towns and villages with your five year development plan and good liaisons with the various statutory agencies. The town continues to show the benefit of your methodical approach with substantial improvements noted.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new section in the competition and like many other towns and villages Castlepollard up to now, has not focused to any great extent on natural amenities or wildlife habitats. Hedgerows, mature trees and gardens provide good habitats, however more can still be done in this respect. Berried shrubs and trees are also a valuable source of food for wild birds. You should consult local experts with a view to identifying how best you can further address this section in the years ahead.

LANDSCAPING

A lot of effort has gone into landscaping Castlepollard. The Green is a good example of what has been achieved over the years. The work that has taken place since last year has contributed greatly to its appearance, the new footpaths, the iron bollards, work at roundabouts, flower beds, repainting the town hall, etc. all add to the town centre. However this area would look even better if loose chippings at the car parking area at the telephone kiosk and at the Town Hall were swept up. Flower beds and well maintained wide grassed verges are attractive features on all approach roads. The mature trees and newly planted trees in various locations are other good features as are the many flower boxes and hanging baskets but here and there larger containers would have more effect.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the public buildings are maintained to a high standard, churches, schools, Bank of Ireland, Ulster Bank, etc. The modern fire station looks well and is set off by the well planted shrubs. Mergan sets a very high standard for industrial premises with its well maintained extensive lawns and attractively planted flower beds. There are also many very attractive and presented business premises and shop fronts around the square and other parts of the town. However there are still several unsuitable shop frontages and signs and a number of premises need to be painted. Improvements were noted at the Coole junction, e.g. new stone wall but further work is still required as the rear views of several buildings are unsightly. A couple of garage forecourts could be further improved.

LITTER CONTROL

While there seems to be some improvement in litter control since last year, litter is still a problem in Castlepollard and requires ongoing attention. The attractive new bins should help in this respect.

TIDINESS

The presentation of the buildings around the Square, the work in hand and the good standard of maintenance of approach roads all contribute, however the overall quality of tidiness of the town would be considerably sharpened if kerbings and the footpath areas particularly in the Square and the approaches to the Square were swept on a more regular basis.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The landscaped approaches to the housing scheme on the Coole road was noted and the mature trees and well maintained grassed area are a good feature in front of the local authority houses on the Cavan road. Most of the private houses throughout Castlepollard are maintained to a high standard - many

have well maintained gardens, however, a number should maintain areas between boundary and road to a higher standard e.g. Delvin road and other areas, as weeds were noted in several of these margins.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads are a very good feature of Castlepollard with regularly cut grass, margins, hedges and flower beds at town name signs. The extensive new stone walls were noted throughout the town. Flower beds are another feature although care should be taken not to overdo these as they will require considerable maintenance in future years. There are still a few stretches of stone walls that need attention particularly on the Collinstown road and suitable screening trees might be planted at a number of locations, e.g. on the Coole road on opposite side of road to Fire Station. The mature trees and newly planted trees are an attractive feature in several locations, however additional planting can still be carried out particularly on the Delvin road where a lengthy concrete wall could be improved by screening and several stretches of chainlink fencing. A number of signs between Water Street and the Cavan road need painting.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Castlepollard is one of steady improvements and of systematically tackling problem areas, e.g. screening of unsightly back views of premises on the Coole road junction with the Square, however, you must pay increasing attention to detail, e.g. gravelled areas should be weeded before being sprayed.