

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GLASSON VILLAGE**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	28
The Built Environment	40	27
Litter Control	40	28
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	201

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Glasson is improving steadily and progress under all headings can be reported for this year. The village now has all the ingredients to go far in the competition and how you perform in the years ahead will be watched with interest. The fact that you have widespread local support, that you have been designated for a village renewal scheme and that you are in the process of preparing a Plan augers well for the future. The FAS work at the old school and other locations has been of great benefit to Glasson.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new section in the competition and Glasson has several advantages being close to Lough Ree, with an attractive stream, stands of mature trees, hedgerows, well planted gardens, etc. In your Plan it is important that you give consideration on how best to maximise these resources in the interest of wildlife preservation.

LANDSCAPING

Big improvements have been made since last year in the landscaping of the village. Glasson is known as the Village of the Roses and the large number of colourful and well planted rose beds in the village are a welcome development of this theme. There are attractive flower beds and shrubberies in many locations throughout the village. The standard of presentation and the quality of the landscaping work on the High road and the Low road, at the Ballymahon road as well as the Sweep road is impressive. The landscaping work includes not only the flower beds as mentioned but the closely cut grass, stone walls and trees. Work in progress is noted and your correspondence on this matter has been taken into consideration.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As has been mentioned in last years report the quality of the commercial premises is of a high order and it is not proposed to list again individual premises. Improvements have been noted to the Garda Station surrounds. Painting would freshen a couple of buildings. Work is nearing completion on the restoration of the old school house and its surrounds. This is a most attractive building and will become a focal point in the village.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control continues to be good with no litter visible on the day of inspection; however ongoing attention is required to ensure that litter problems do not develop. Glasson is on a busy route with substantial volumes of passing traffic and there can be no complacency regarding litter.

TIDINESS

The village has a clean and well cared for atmosphere and this will be further enhanced when the works at the Sweep Junction and at other locations have been completed. The quality of the approach roads, the business premises and private dwellings, good quality stone walls, etc. all add up to a well cared for village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are many impressive residential properties and gardens throughout the village, on the High road, the Low Road, the Sweep Road, the Killinure Road and the village itself. Many maintain the extensive gravelled areas between boundary and road to a high order; however a number could make improvements in this respect particularly at the end of the Sweep Road and on the Killinure Road.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard of presentation of the High road, the Low road, and the Ballymahon road as has already been commented on, is of a very high order indeed and improvements are being made this year with new planting, new stone walls, etc. Here and there breaches in the high stone wall on the High road need repair, particularly beyond the 30 m.p.h. speed limit sign. Screening trees should be considered for behind the stone wall adjoining the school as long weeds are obtrusive. The grassed area at the bridge on the Ballymore road is not up to the standard of other similar areas; the area has a bare look and the shrubbery is inadequately planted. This area has considerable potential for further development. Much more could be made of the stream. There is also scope for development of the stream on the opposite side of the road. It is noted that these areas feature in the Village Renewal Programme.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Not many villages have an attractive identity theme such as Glasson - The Village of the Roses - and you are to be congratulated on your further development of this theme with your new rose beds. As part of your Development Plan you should consider colourful new village name signs highlighting the rose theme.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (11/08/96)

Send in a summary of the Tidy Towns plan which forms part of the overall development plan for the village for consideration by the judges in next year's competition. A major setback for the village is the excessive amount of on-street carparking. A small section of the banks of the stream might be devoted to highlighting the wildlife of the area. The pathway leading down to the small pool at the amenity area beside the Centra/Burma property should be resurfaced and some public seating installed here. Public seating might also be provided on the banks of this stream on the opposite side of the road. Tree planting and neatly trimmed wide grass margins on the Ballymahon entrance to the village look remarkably well. The heritage centre project has been noted. Ensure a high standard of finish to the curtilage area here and send in details for next year's adjudication. Litter control was not quite as good on the second adjudication as on the first, particularly beside the Burma/Centra property. The vacant site beside Ann's Hairdressing salon, which features the redundant and broken Texaco petrol pump sign, should be enclosed by the construction of a roadside boundary wall or by planting hedgerow while awaiting development. A corrugated utility building on the right hand side of the road on the Athlone entrance to the village could be upgraded or demolished. Building materials mark the roadside edge to the Shannon Crafts property - these should be removed if work has been completed. Some roadside areas to boundary walls in the cul-de-sac were in need of weeding. An unfinished garden of a new house at the junction of the cul-de-sac and the main road looks untidy. No doubt the grounds to this magnificent house will be developed in due course. A litter bin beside the Garda station needs to be repainted and the telephone kiosk could be improved a little also. Other items of street furniture looked well particularly the new litter bin beside the telephone kiosk. Some stretches of stone wall along the Athlone entrance to the village need to be repaired. Overall Glasson is a vibrant village with some very attractive features.