

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MOUNT TEMPLE**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14
Landscaping	40	28
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	21
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	181

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

You are to be congratulated on the approach that you have adopted to the development of the village and this has paid obvious dividends in the quality of presentation of Mount Temple. Considerable ongoing progress is again noted this year which indicates widespread local commitment as well as ongoing support from FAS, the Local Authority and others. You have also outlined impressive plans for the future development of the village which when complete will make a big contribution to the appearance of Mount Temple.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new section in the Competition and it is important that Committees take the preservation and enhancement of the natural habitat more into consideration in future plans. We note that you have deferred cutting hedges because of nesting birds and other wildlife and this is to be welcomed. It was interesting to see the large number of swifts nesting in the eaves of the Community Hall. The adjudicators found their diving and swooping a pleasurable experience. It is hoped that the Community Hall will remain a haven for swifts in the future. You should consult local experts on the best to improve the natural habitats of the village and indeed the type of trees/shrubs that would give maximum benefit to birds.

LANDSCAPING

There are several impressive examples of good quality landscaping throughout the village. The lengthy stone flower bed on the wide bend opposite Egans is a good example of this. The attractive well planted shrubbery at the back of the Top Petrol Pumps is another. The grassed area between the Community Hall and the Ballymore Road is also attractive - however, the shrubberies might be better defined. The provision of seats or picnic tables in this location would be of a practical benefit and would also add interest. The line of newly planted screening beech trees on the Moate road was also noted.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment is satisfactory. The Church and its grounds are in good condition as is the National School. The well planted hanging baskets and flower tubs give colour to the Community Hall; however, the adjoining car parking area, while weed free and well surfaced, is bare and somewhat out of scale with the village. Consideration should be given to the provision of a feature; perhaps a tree or shrubs of a suitable scale which would reduce the impact of this parking area and bring it more into keeping with the rest of the village. Egans is a most attractive building with its simple but effective frontage, the well planted shrubs and well maintained iron railing. However improvements could be made to the entrance of the farm building at the junction of the Ballymore road; the concrete wall could be painted and screening trees planted. The gravelled area also is not up to the same standard and resurfacing would help.

LITTER CONTROL

Improvements can be made to litter control throughout the village as on the day of inspection a scattering of litter was noted particularly in the new footpath area and at the stonewall at the opposite side of the road to the Community Hall. Litter was also noted in other parts of the village.

TIDINESS

In spite of some litter the village has a well cared for appearance, with the landscaping work, well maintained buildings, stone walls and the generally large weed free gravelled margins all contributing.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the residential properties were of a good standard of presentation. Gardens were also satisfactory. Most of the boundary walls were in a good condition and the majority also maintained to a good standard. The gravelled areas between boundary walls and road e.g. properties on opposite side of the road to the telephone kiosk require attention. The house at the junction of the Baylin/Glasson road had an attractive shrubbery. There were, however, a number of weedy gravelled entrance areas - some of these included the Golf Course entrance and adjoining properties.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

An impressive feature of the village are the stone walls both old and new. The same also applies to the old and new footpaths. Further work is needed on the approach roads - for example, the grass verges could be cut more frequently and where possible cut grass should be removed. There are a couple of examples of sprayed long dead weeds at entrance areas and these are unsightly. The concrete and chain link fence at the Glasson/Baylin road could be improved by screening trees or a stone wall. Several roadside poles need painting.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Continuing satisfactory progress has been made as exemplified by new stone walls, footpaths, etc. Impressive future plans were also noted; however, greater attention to detail is still required. At this level of the competition more and more emphasis will be placed on the finer points and this is one of the weaker areas.