

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **STREAMSTOWN**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	19
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10
Landscaping	40	15
The Built Environment	40	14
Litter Control	40	20
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	14
General Impression	10	4
TOTAL MARK	300	121

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

As was mentioned in last years report you should consider the preparation of a Development Plan which would set down a strategy for the development of the village. The preparation of such a plan in conjunction with the community would help generate additional support as well as assisting with the appropriate state agencies. The village has considerable potential and the cross-roads area in particular could be very attractive. Improvements were noted since last year but much remains to be done.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new area in the competition which up to now has not featured as prominently as it might. In your development plan you should seek advice as to how this particular subject might be best addressed, for example the railway line which is now little used by trains, is one location that should be looked at. Hedgerows, mature trees and gardens are all important wild life areas.

LANDSCAPING

Some landscaping has been carried out by FAS since last year especially the lengthy stone flower bed at the back of the petrol pump and the flower bed at the ball alley. The crossroads is a focal point of the village and has great potential but needs major upgrading. Some suggestions include the levelling of the grassed area which would allow for easier mowing and would display the greens to greater effect. Sharper definition of the boundaries would be a great help. The straggling birch trees are unattractive and most should be removed with the possible exception of the tree with the stake nearest the Post Office. Other plantings might be considered. The pump is a good feature and much more could be made of it. The handball alley needs to be repainted and improvements could be made to the screening trees adjoining.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Streamstown is a small village and does not have very many buildings, however a painting scheme of the properties at the crossroads would have a dramatic effect and well filled window boxes or hanging baskets would also add colour. The car park at the Shop Local is attractive with its flowering pyracanthas at the boundary wall and views of the landscaped garden beyond. Shrubs have been planted at the concrete wall opposite the car park and when they mature they will be very attractive. The derelict buildings at the crossroads are a problem and may not be easy to deal with in the short term; the building on the opposite side of road to the Shop Local is in a particularly bad state.

LITTER CONTROL

On the day of inspection there was very little litter visible in the village. The fact that Streamstown is not on a main road significantly reduces passing traffic and this helps in litter control. However in spite of the absence of litter it is important that litter bins are available for use.

TIDINESS

The absence of litter is a considerable help in generating a tidy atmosphere in many communities and this is no exception in Streamstown. However more adequate maintenance of approach roads/cross-roads area and derelict buildings at the crossroads all detract from the overall appearance of the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the residential properties are satisfactory. The new bungalow in the course of completion facing onto the crossroads will have an important effect on the village and hopefully its grounds will extend to the Rosemount road as this area needs to be upgraded. Several of the houses maintain gravelled areas between boundary wall and road but a number require weeding. Long sprayed dead weeds are unsightly and should be removed.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

A lot of work needs to be done to bring the approach roads up to standard. The Rosemount road is the best presented but even here it is a mixed bag with some well maintained grassed areas and others untended. The wide grassed area with the mature trees at the wide bend on the Rosemount road needs more regular grass cutting. The grass has been cut on the Mullingar road but this needs to be done on a more regular basis. The Kildare road is untended. You should approach the Local Authority regarding the provision of village name signs; as well as identifying the village they will define the boundaries. The road surface at the cross-roads need upgrading.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Steamstown has the potential to look very well. A more planned approach is needed and a big effort must be made to generate greater participation from the community.