

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TUBBERCLAIR**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10
Landscaping	40	18
The Built Environment	40	20
Litter Control	40	21
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	16
General Impression	10	4
TOTAL MARK	300	140

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Further improvements have been made since last year. Especially noteworthy are the new stone walls around the Church. However, as mentioned in last year's report a lot can still be done to bring Tubberclair up to standard. Improving the quality of the grass verges on the main road would make a big difference and should be a priority. The preparation of a simple 3\5 year Development Plan would be of great value in generating additional support from both the Community and State Agencies and should be completed for next year's competition.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

In your entry form you indicate that you have no wildlife habitat. However this is to ignore lengthy stretches of hedgerows especially on the Killinure road. Gardens are also important habitats especially for birds. This is a new section in the competition and you should seek advice and assistance from local environmental experts on how best to improve natural habitats, e.g. appropriate planting such as berried trees and shrubs, can provide an important food supply for wild birds.

LANDSCAPING

The shrubberies at the Killinure junction are an attractive feature and work in progress is noted. The extensive new stone walls around the Church are impressive. The shrubbery at the car park at the lower end of the Church is an attractive feature as are the trees at the new stone wall in the upper car park. The upper car park appears very big and efforts should be made to make it appear more in scale with the surrounding landscape. The provision of shrubberies or other features at the entrance would help in this respect.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church is satisfactory as is the School with its landscaped grounds. The FAS building is somewhat bleak and the large car parking area is unsightly with long dead weeds. The forecourts of the two Petrol Stations are satisfactory.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control continues to be the satisfactory as on the day of inspection there was little or no litter visible throughout the village. However there is no room for complacency and ongoing commitment should be made to ensure that standards do not slip.

TIDINESS

A much greater impression of tidiness would be created if the grass verges were maintained to a high standard. It is a pity that the grass verges on the main road are untended as this considerably detracts from what would otherwise be a well cared for village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Tubberclair is a scattered community and there are not many private residences. Most of the residences are of a good standard of presentation. The two houses and gardens at the School are noteworthy and have attractively landscaped grounds. The thatched house at the opposite side of road to Church is in good condition and its rarity should make this house all the more appreciated. A number of houses need to maintain to a higher standard areas between their boundary walls and the road, especially approaching the Kilkenny West junction.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The condition of the roads are one of the weaker elements in the village. As has been mentioned there are lengthy stretches of neatly trimmed hedges on the Killinure road and the footpath from the main road junction to the Church is generally in good condition with weed free kerbing. However the main road in particular has lengthy stretches of unkempt grass especially from the opposite side of the road to the school to the Kilkenny West junction. A chainlink fencing is unsightly in several locations especially on the bend on the opposite side of road to Killinure junction and at both the Kilkenny West and Mucknagh junctions. The new stretch of stone wall on the opposite side of the road to the FAS building is obscured by long grass. Several road sign poles need painting and fly posting removed.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Tubberclair has reached a certain standard in the competition. A more planned approach and greater community involvement is required and you should concentrate on improving the grass verges and margins on the main road.