

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SHILLELAGH**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 27-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17
Landscaping	40	26
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	24
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	190

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the new format of the 1996 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for completed questionnaire. The adjudicators look forward to the presentation of your detailed five year work programme - in this try to come up with realistic and achievable objectives which will help the improve the overall fabric of the environment and the natural amenities as well as wildlife. There is no reason why the village of Shillelagh cannot do well in this competition, you have excellent streetscape, development of park and wildlife development opportunities. In considering new developments, there is major challenge there and the challenge should be there for developers to ensure that the appeal of the village is maintained in terms of any new developments. New developments should try to blend with the existing architecture of the village, it is something that many other towns would be envious of.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Shillelagh is fortunate in having a number of water features which can help promote wildlife. At the bridge of the River Derry, could a riverside walk/park be developed here? Also, the river by Shillelagh Motors was noted by the adjudicators and was somewhat disappointing, this needs to be cleaned out. In light of the change of emphasis in the competition, attention must be paid to these areas, for example, a bin was noted thrown in the river. Use of weed killer used by the former restaurant is somewhat unsightly and you might try to avoid this. With regard to the village park in the centre of the village, the efforts here in developing this are to be commended, however, the pond was very disappointing, with litter noted in it, it was overgrown, dumping of grass cuttings etc., and the water was stagnant. Try to improve this area. The other small water feature wasnt working, and bricks were noted dumped in it. The footpath around the pond needs to be addressed. It was nice to see an open area adjacent to the cul-de-sac, which is helpful in promoting wildlife. Try to encourage development of wildlife in this area.

LANDSCAPING

The park, and the area around the park needs more attention. The pond was also bad, perhaps some seating might be nice - obviously these works are not completed. The area next to Shillelagh Motors continues to be an eyesore. Seating by the River Derry and throughout the village was painted - well done. Shrubs in Sandes could be improved, as could the seat near Taylors. Once the park is completed this should be quite nice. Try to promote the use of flowers.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Potentially the village could perform very well under this heading; you have some very attractive buildings, which would be the envy of many other towns. Try to tackle some of the older buildings - if you can do this you would be able to improve your marks under this heading. Overall, it wasnt too bad. During the course of adjudication it was noted that outside Kerry Group was well presented; the bank to the right of the entrance needs more attention. Paint the white building to the entrance to the housing development on the Tinahely Road. The Shillelagh Village Takeaway should be encouraged to upgrade, perhaps even painting. Two derelict buildings on the Tinahely road were also noted - try to work on these as they are unique buildings. St. Fiacs Hall also needs work. Centra Supermarket was also quite bad - this needed to be painted - perhaps a feature could be made of the old rings in the walls. Watch the weeds in the forecourt at Shillelagh Motors. The Hall is an attractive building, the comments were noted. Good luck in this regard. Try to paint the clock tower in the meantime. The Post Office was very quaint and it is very nice to see the new development at John F. Kennys, well done. Try to put in some flower boxes at the Garda Station. The Church grounds were very well presented.

LITTER CONTROL

Overall, not bad but small sprinklings were noted and took from the overall presentation in this section. The adjudicators were initially impressed with the litter free appearance. However, sprinklings of litter

were noted on the Tinahely approach road, also, where the piping entered the stream at Sandes and at the gateway to the right of the Garda Station - the main areas were litter free.

TIDINESS

Overall, quite a good impression and the adjudicators were impressed with the overall tidiness of the village. There are a number of areas which take from this, for example, the area near Shillelagh Motors; long grass was noted at the entrance to the GAA; the presence of silage and hay wrapped in black plastic takes from the overall visual attractiveness of the park on the approach road from Clonegal, however, trees have been planted and in years to come this should be overcome. The Ballynalla sign was broken.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

On the Tinahely approach road, one boundary wall of a terrace should be replaced with more traditional stone. A lovely terrace was noted on the Tinahely approach. Also, good individual efforts were noted further in on the right hand side. A nice rose garden was noted next to the Avalon. Within the residential park off Tinahely Road a nameplate would benefit the area; litter was evident and more work is needed here - this could be done in a single evening by the residents to remove this problem. Nice terraces of houses were noted opposite the Avalon. Overall, you have unique and attractive buildings. Other good efforts were noted up the cul-de-sac road.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach road from Kerry Group, weeds were noted on the right hand side along the kerb at the 30 MPH sign, the left hand side was very litter free; well done. Closer in, small sprinklings were noted. Approaching Shillelagh from Tinahely, a lovely terrace of houses sets off the approach very well, the grass verges needed to be cut back at the 30MPH sign as the Shillelagh sign was obscured by long grass. Approaching from Clonegal, a very good presentation was noted. On the Tullow approach, the use of the weed killer at the former restaurant takes from the overall appearance. Within the village the Main Streets were generally well presented.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Overall, a good presentation this year, but there is considerable room for improvements to be made, which, no doubt, will be addressed in your five year plan. Litter did take from the overall appearance in some places, but the adjudicators would like to note that they feel it is a unique village, with beautiful character and the appeal of an estate village. Buildings of this architecture are few and far between and it is something that you should ensure is strongly protected and conserved. If there is further development taking place try to ensure that it is in-keeping with the rest of the village.