

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **STRATFORD-ON-SLANEY**  
County : **WICKLOW**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17
Landscaping	40	30
The Built Environment	40	22
Litter Control	40	31
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>206</b>

## **Adjudicator's Comments**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Welcome to the new format of the Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your detailed questionnaire and map, together with your work programme for 1995/96 and your long-term plan. There are some very exciting proposals in it and the adjudicators wish you luck in this regard. It would be very nice to see the restoration of a fountain feature in the village, together with the other proposals. Your efforts for the restoration of the old schoolhouse as an interpretative centre is also to be commended. The adjudicators appreciate that it is a small village and that by its very nature there is not a large number on the committee, however, the assistance of the Student Job Scheme and FAS can help bring about improvements which are in evidence, but continued improvements are needed. Under-grounding of cables would be a welcomed development and would make a difference to the village. It was good to see, on day of adjudication, work going on in a number of areas throughout the village, as well as a number of students carrying out the history project.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

There is a good variety of tree planting which is coming on well, try to avoid the use of weed-killers, where possible, as it takes from the overall appearance. There is potential for greater nature conservation in the village. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats in your catchment area and see what species of animals, birds and fish etc. these attract. Why not invite your local environmental experts and groups to get involved to advise you and provide you with the specialist information you require. Also, try to promote more use of wild indigenous flowers and plants. The opening up of the mass path is to be commended, try to incorporate wildlife features into this area in your landscaping programme.

### **LANDSCAPING**

As already mentioned, improvements to the mass path were noted, well done, this area was not complete however. Try to promote wildlife, wild flowers and indigenous trees and plants. The kerbing of the village green would be an improvement. The grassed areas in the green were very well maintained throughout, well done. Some nice stone wall features and improvements were noted this year, for example, opposite the Post Office and also by the Church of Ireland. Seating was noted on Doctors Road, well done. All the approaches to the village were very well maintained and the development of footpaths were also noted at time of adjudication. Why not plant trees along High Street, due to the width of the road, this would create a nice feature in years to come. There was an excellent presentation on Chapel Street, very neat and tidy, with nice planting noted near the pole. Improvements were also noted on Church Street. In the central grassed area in the village, kerbing was taking place at time of adjudication and the pump area was well presented with flower tubs complimenting it.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Most of your important buildings were well presented with the exception of one or two. The Church of Ireland was well maintained with resurfacing of it outside was taking place on day of adjudication, a new stone wall was also noted and the existing wall had been replastered. The grassed area in the cemetery grounds, was not too bad but could have perhaps, at time of adjudication, been cut. The Catholic Church would also have benefited from a painting at time of adjudication, as could the old school house. The perimeter wall of the farmhouse could also be painted. The area to the right of the garage could also be improved. The Community Centre grounds were very good, excellent presentation here. All that is needed is to paint up the sign. Outside Kellys Store was very neat and tidy and well maintained. Finally, good effort with flower boxes was noted at the Post Office. Overall, there is room for improvement in this area, if only ensuring that premises are freshly painted.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control is excellent throughout the village this year, well done. Many litter bins were in evidence, litter was definitely not a problem in any particular area. Neither were weeds a problem. Overall, a very good performance in this section.

#### TIDINESS

Tidiness was also excellent. The telephone kiosk could be painted, which would improve its appearance. At the mass path, which was not yet completed, its appearance was detracted by the abandoned car, try to remove this. All sign-posting was bright and clean. Overall, a very good appearance in this section also.

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The adjudicators felt that there was a very good, to excellent performance in this category this year. Excellent efforts were noted in residential premises, particularly on Chapel Street. Also, the new perimeter walls were noted outside the Council estate on High Street, which were almost complete at time of adjudication.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The village approach roads were presented to a very high standard this year, well done. It is good to see that the needs of the pedestrians is being catered for, by the development of footpaths. Approaching Stratford from Lower Manger Road, grass verges had been cut, the sign was freshly painted and the Beech/Sycamore trees were noted coming on very well. Approaching from Mill Road, again it was very neat and tidy, perhaps, try to finish off kerbing and try to avoid the use of weed killers if possible. On the approach from Winetavern Road, verges had again been cut back, try to remove the grass cuttings as soon as possible. Hedges were also neatly cut and planting of Beech noted. It is nice to see the roses further in along. Along Building Hill, work was going on to the footpath development at time of adjudication, which is to be commended, well done, and there is a very attractive shrubbery and Beech trees coming up the hill on the right hand side. Within the village itself, the village green area was very neat and tidy - perhaps it might benefit from some kerbing and the Main Street was also very tidy.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is good evidence of work being carried out in the village of Stratford this year, even down to the etching of grass verges indicating continued effort and attention to detail. It is also good to see some comments have been acted upon over last years report, for example, corrugated roof to the left of the National School. The presence of trees are coming on very well. The adjudicators look forward to seeing continued improvements in years to come, particularly, through the implementation of your five year work programme. Good luck for next year.