

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **OLD LEIGHLIN**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	--
The Built Environment	40	24	--
Landscaping	40	24	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	--
Litter Control	40	25	--
Tidiness	20	9	--
Residential Areas	30	16	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	166	--

Old Leighlin, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the Tidy Towns Competition. We hope it will be the first of many years for your village to take part. You have a great number of people on your Committee which will help with your workload. We wish you every success with your work for Tidy Towns in the years ahead. All Tidy Towns committees are now required to produce a plan to guide their activities. Your plan should be a simple document to set out your objectives for the next 3 to 5 years. Do not adopt unrealistic objectives; a limited number each year which are achievable is far more likely to yield results. Do liaise with the Tourism Officer for the County and the Local Authority who will have some useful advice to give you. You might enclose a map of the village with next year's entry form.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The School was very well presented as were its grounds. All the trees and shrubs are maturing nicely. The derelict building beside the School needs attention. Perhaps you might initiate discussions with the owners. The pump area would need attention and with some planning this could become a feature. The farm could be encouraged to paint same and generally tidy up. The commercial buildings in the village would need to receive some treatment - painting, etc.

LANDSCAPING

Trees are important plants in the landscape. Do take care when embarking on new planting. Careful study should go into the placing of trees throughout the village. Trees with some local association should be used. Shrubs and flowers used on their own or in combination with trees should contribute to the overall effect. There is some nice planting done in the island. The tree here is a delightful feature and I note from your application form that it is very old. The entrance to the housing estate is an area that could do with some planting of shrubs and perhaps a tree or two. The open green space will need attention. Do seek advice locally when planning this aspect from a horticulturist or a person who has some expertise.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new category first introduced last year. The emphasis is on conservation and the enhancement of wildlife habitats. Your first task will be to identify the main existing areas of wildlife in your community. Your hedgerows should be managed carefully as they are an important grassland habitat. Also important are grass margins, open spaces and graveyards. Do invite a local expert or some person who has an expertise on wildlife to advise you. You will be delighted to discover the number and extent of these habitats.

LITTER CONTROL

It is important to have and maintain a clean outdoor environment. Issues to be considered should include the promotion of anti-litter awareness with schools, youth groups and the community as a whole. Provision of litter bins and regular clean ups to tackle black spots will be necessary. Your litter control was good throughout with only a few pieces in the village but the viewing point had a large amount. It is an area where litter bins should be placed.

TIDINESS

Weeds at the base of walls and at kerbs need attention throughout the village. Weeds were visible at the wall by the pump, the Church, past the pump, at School wall and kerbs. The area near the Garage has a rusty car which should be removed. Also gates into fields should be painted and all overgrowth around them should be cut.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The housing estate was well maintained and the gardens looked well. Attention should be given to removing weeds from the kerbs. Other houses throughout the village would need better presentation and maintenance.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Some of the roads need resurfacing. The approach roads were being cut on the day of adjudication. Signposting needs to be upgraded and kept clean. Attention should be paid to footpaths and kerbs. Do strike a balance between preserving the hedgerows as wildlife habitats and keep them trimmed sufficiently for road safety. The property owners should be encouraged to take responsibility for their entrances and gateways.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Old Leighlin is a very attractive village and these are delightful views of the landscape and village from the viewing point. Your village has great potential to do well in the competition for the future. From now you can plan your campaign for next year. Well done to all!