

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SHERCOCK**
County : **CAVAN**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	21	20
Landscaping	40	22	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	24	25
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	17	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	17	18
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	172	171

Shercock, County Cavan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Hopefully your three to five year plan for the town will be available for next year's adjudication. You have clearly developed a strong strategy over the years and will be able to work in order to achieve the necessary results.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the buildings within the town were presented to a reasonably high standard on adjudication day. The new National School looked very fresh indeed. Painting was in progress at the boundary wall. St. Patrick's Parochial Hall looked very fresh although a boarded up abandoned, half-built structure opposite looked unfortunate. The Post Office and National Irish Bank were very fresh as was Steepleton House with its attractive hanging baskets. The Catholic church could be freshened up before next year's competition, especially the boundary wall. The surface to the car park area opposite was not in good condition and weeds were apparent between the paving flagstones to the front of the church. Shercock House in a bright orange looked very fresh although the projecting plastic signs on posts outside could be replaced with those of a more sensitive timber variety. The Health Centre in its prominent position at the top of main street could be freshened up before next year. The Church of Ireland on the hill has its grounds filled with mature trees overhanging the stone wall and looked magnificent, although the sign at the gate was quite flaky. There were quite a few inappropriate plastic canopies to shop fronts along Main Street; these should be replaced with more traditional fabric awnings. There were some problem areas in this category, namely the out building with the tin roof adjacent to the blue house coming into Main Street which was very grubby. It is important in a town such as Shercock where the buildings step up the main street not to forget gables, as they are very evident as you approach the town and give a bad impression if grubby.

LANDSCAPING

There was a profusion of colourful hanging baskets and window boxes to premises throughout the town which looked very cheerful. The landscaping at the Statoil Service Station was simple yet effective and the Fair Green was simply presented. The roses at the town name plate sign on the Cootehill Road had yet to come into bloom but will undoubtedly look magnificent when they do.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The town of Shercock is fortunate in this category in that it has many mature trees, grounds and gardens and, of course, not forgetting the lake area which provides an ideal habitat for wildlife. You should make contact with the relevant national bodies such as ENFO and Conservation Volunteers of Ireland who will give you information on the subject. Get both local experts and school

children involved and this way you can formulate a wildlife management plan.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard in this category seemed to have slipped somewhat from last year. Quite a lot of litter was apparent along the wide footpaths on Main Street and also on the Cootehill Road and on the Church Road.

TIDINESS

Some weeding was necessary to the base of the boundary wall opposite the school and also at the paving to the front of the church. An empty site at the speed limit sign on the Cootehill Road created a bad impression and the chain-link fence mentioned in last year's report at the builders suppliers yard was still a problem.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses and gardens throughout the town and along the approach roads were all presented to a high standard. Of particular note was the beautiful garden with roses at Denver House and the many attractive gardens on the Kingscourt Road with their mature hedges, in particular that with the bright red poppies which looked very cheerful.

ROAD, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category also seemed to have slipped somewhat from last year. The approach roads to the town are most attractive with their meandering native, abundance of wild flowers, mature trees and views to both the lake and town. On the Kingscourt Road the hedgerows were cut back and wild foxgloves were in evidence within the hedgerows. The verges could have been somewhat neater and the nameplate signs were quite grubby. On the Cootehill Road, it was a similar story. Some litter was evident here and the speed limit sign was quite flaky. This is perhaps the most attractive approach to the town along the lake shore. The nameplate sign along the road by the church was battered and quite grubby. The verges could have been neater. It is also a very attractive approach with its wild foxgloves and wild ferns and the view to the town rising up in front of you.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Shercock is an attractive town situated in a magnificent lakeside setting with attractive meandering approaches. Some work is required in both the areas of approach roads and litter control, but the town is making steady progress in the competition.