

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **STRADONE**  
County : **CAVAN**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	30	32
Tidiness	20	11	12
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	20
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>192</b>

## **Stradone, County Cavan**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Stradone Development Committee seem to have a strong working relationship with FAS, which is highly commendable. The adjudicator notes that Cavan County Council has plans to improve the village in 1999! This will be vital as the condition of the road surfaces was simply dreadful! We look forward to reading your village enhancement plan which hopefully will be ready for next years adjudication. It is important that this is put into action and an overall strategy / framework within which to work is essential to the village's progress at this point.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The standard in this category was quite inconsistent. The garage was well presented and perhaps the inappropriate plastic sign could be removed at a future date and replaced with a more traditional timber one. Another idea would be to conceal the prominent oil tanks by means of a timber frame structure and grow creeper up it. The boundary wall to the GAA should be freshened up by next year. The adjudicator appreciated your comments in relation to the Health Centre. The hand rails and the underside of the canopy are particularly unfortunate; you should continue to press the North-Eastern Health Board to remedy this situation as this building is extremely prominent on the Dublin approach Road and creates a bad impression. The adjudicator was delighted to note that the Garda Station was very fresh following last year's comments. The Post Office could be freshened up, as could the building next to it.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The green open spaces throughout the village were beautifully manicured with some attractive permanent planting incorporating a wishing well at one point. An incidental landscaped space by a house in the village with pansies and snap-dragons looked delightful. As mentioned in last year's report the village pumps would benefit from even a fresh coat of paint to sharpen up their presentation.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Stradone is naturally fortunate in this category with the river passing through the village and the adjacent lakes and woodlands. The suggestion by last year's adjudicator to develop a wildlife trail through these areas is a very good one. You should involve local environmental experts and formulate a wildlife management plan by identifying habitats and producing a detailed map showing the areas of wildlife importance within the village.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

On first impressions the village was reasonably litter free on adjudication day. However, a closer inspection revealed a

number of problem areas. In a village of Stradone's size you have to be especially vigilant as even one or two papers are all the more noticeable. Quite a few papers were in evidence outside the GAA grounds and some were strewn along the Bailieboro Road.

## **TIDINESS**

Again, the first impression was a neat and ordered appearance to the village of Stradone. However, the abundance of weeds to the base of the boundary wall along the length of the GAA grounds created a very bad impression in the centre of the village. Weeds were also noted to the base of a quite grubby brown boundary wall of a house further up the village.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The standard in this category was quite good. The residents of properties both within the village and along the approach roads obviously have a great pride in their properties. The attractive vernacular architecture of the derelict house to the green was admired. However, its neglected appearance creates a bad impression. Other towns in and around the county have improved the appearance of derelict buildings by a simple coat of paint which is a suggested solution to the problem. The grubby brown boundary wall to a house at the edge of the village on the Dublin Road was noted. Gardens of note were one with purple rhododendrons and lupins along the Factory Road and another garden containing lupins on the Bailieboro Road. The salmon pink house opposite the GAA grounds was very fresh and looked marvellous.

## **ROAD, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The problem of road surfaces, particularly in and around the GAA grounds and greens is a severe one and creates a very bad impression to even a person merely passing through the village. You should continue to liaise with Cavan County Council about this issue! Along the Cavan Road the verges were well maintained and the road signage was very clean. The Dublin Road is an attractive approach to the village with its overhanging mature trees and wealth of wild flowers, such as honeysuckle and daisies in the hedgerows. However, the verges could have been neater. Along Factory Road the wild roses and ferns in the hedgerows were admired, perhaps a picnic area / viewing point to the lake could be incorporated along this road as the traveller is barely aware of the existence of the lake! Along the Bailieboro Road, as noted previously, some litter was evident and the stop sign was damaged. Lettering here should be repaired.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Stradone is a very peaceful little village with a wealth of natural beauty and wildlife including bird song. Although it looked well on a sunny June adjudication day much work is required to the problem areas identified within this report.