

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **COILL DUBH**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	23
The Built Environment	40	20	19
Landscaping	40	24	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	16	15
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	163	154

Coill Dubh, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your entry form. It is disappointing not to have received a map, or a plan outlining proposals for improvements, problem areas or sensitive spots. It is nice to see Irish incorporated into your overall approach. Well done in this regard.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Every village in Ireland is different - each has its own unique history, topography, buildings and even use of building materials - but the most important village in Ireland is your own. Much of the overall impression of any town is dictated by its buildings. Each building is unique in its own way and collectively these buildings contribute to the unique character of the town. The school grounds were well maintained. The gable end of Centra would benefit from painting. The area outside the shop could be neater.

LANDSCAPING

The appearance, maintenance and presentation of open spaces are a vital aspect of civic design quality. Poor presentation of public areas can take away from high standards achieved by individual properties. The entrance into Coill Dubh from Hawthorn Farm was excellently presented this year; congratulations. The care and maintenance involved here are to be commended. Some excellent individual efforts are also noted. Lovely mature trees were noted by no.s 103 and 104. Grass was neatly cut throughout Coill Dubh; well done. Some planting might be considered for the areas around the pump.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Conserving nature is a new venture for many towns and can appear daunting at first. The adjudicators recognise that environmental programmes can take time to get up and running and even longer to assess their success. This section of the report requires an involvement of all groups, including schools in the village. The emphasis is on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats. The committee needs to identify the habitats in their area and then determine the appropriate actions to conserve and enhance these habitats. Guidelines in the Tidy Towns book offer other suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. Is there a local wildlife expert, or a member of the community with experience in this area, that your committee can draw on? In preparing an environmental programme for the village, there should be a year-round participation in environmental protection and promotion involving all members of the community and providing access for all. The next step is to identify what habitats are in your area - are there woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, or other habitats such as urban

spaces, cemeteries, walls etc. Prepare a survey and map, showing the areas of wildlife importance and areas of future importance, e.g. school grounds and gardens, derelict sites etc. Other steps involved in the preparation of the environmental programme for Coill Dubh would include the preparation of a list of the flora and fauna in the area, preparation of a wildlife management plan as part of the area development plan and identification of tasks to be carried out including conservation projects, wildlife gardens, areas of conservation, access, tree planting, information areas, access, etc. This must be carried out in sympathy with the local landscape and must not be overwhelming visually, or environmentally. Trees are maturing well but try to encourage the children and school children to develop wildlife projects throughout the year.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter was noted in the car park of the golf course; try to improve on this for next year. Sprinklings of litter were also noted outside the shop/Hong's Chinese Take Away. At the newer residential development litter was also evident. Try to work on this for next year by putting in litter bins and creating awareness among children.

TIDINESS

Most seating would benefit from painting. The "Yield Right of Way" sign needs to be replaced at the entrance from Rathangan. Within the park itself, there is a neat and tidy appearance.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The adjudicators commend the efforts in maintaining the residential areas. Grass had been neatly cut and excellent individual efforts are evident. In Willow Lawns, try to watch the weeds along by the kerbs. Litter was evident in the newer residential development, especially at the entrance. The newer park could also be much improved. Within the older estate, the residents have set high standards, which should be followed in the newer park in terms of maintenance and presentation of landscaped areas.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach road from Rathangan has been resurfaced, which is positive to see. Replace the 30 MPH signs on the Naas approach. Litter was noted at the Naas/Coolcarrigan finger post sign, and verges had only been roughly cut. Near Hawthorn Farm, weeds were noted by kerbs. The Coill Dubh sign needs to be cleaned, and weeds were also noted in the car park of Woodlands Golf Course together with some litter. You really have to try to target the approach roads.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Coill Dubh is a beautiful, pretty village with, obviously, a very strong community spirit and attention to detail. Over the next year, why not try to just concentrate on one project at a time. With time, you will see results. Good luck for 1998.