

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NARRAGHMORE**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 20-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	33
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	27	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	32
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	214	207

Narraghmore, County Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your entry form and map which were very helpful during the course of adjudication. It is good to see continued improvements being made to an already excellent presentation. It would be nice if you could incorporate bilingualism into areas around the village. Well done on identifying Drummers Well as a historical feature, it was nice to see that the information of the history of this area was included; congratulations.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Furrow was well presented. The bath flower container is a nice feature outside Kelly's Shop. Outside the shop was also litter free. The pump area is a nice feature - but could more of a feature be made of this? For example, by improving the concrete base or fencing? This might be one area that you might try to concentrate on as your approach roads are very good, as is landscaping.

LANDSCAPING

A nicely landscaped seating area was noted opposite the white house. A lovely shrubbery was noted at the junction to the Kilcullen road. Whitethorn hedging was also noted near the field at this junction. Well done with the presentation of Drummers Well. Nice seating was noted on approach roads. Overall, a good presentation this year.

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 emphasis on 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 Narraghmore would include identification of the flora and fauna in the area, preparation of a wildlife management plan as part of the area development plan and identification of the tasks to be carried out including conservation projects, wildlife gardens, areas of conservation, access, tree planting, information areas etc. This must be carried out in sympathy with the local landscape and must not be overwhelming visually, or environmentally. Good luck with your plans to develop a wildlife habitat at wasteland.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was excellent throughout the village this year congratulations. However, very minor scatterings of litter were noted on one or two approach roads and on the grassed areas of Hillview Drive. Scatterings of litter were noted on the approach roads, but thankfully this was not a major problem. Sprinklings were noted on the grassed area at Hillview Drive, but this was only a minor outbreak. Overall, a very good presentation this year.

TIDINESS

Again, a very good presentation under this category. There was a very neat and tidy appearance throughout approach roads and within the centre of the village. The wires on the pole definitely take from the appearance at the pump, so maybe in the long term efforts might be made to look at this. Also, try to paint or replace the sign for Kilcullen. Some graffiti was noted on the telephone kiosk, which was disappointing. Otherwise a very good presentation. Also, try to consider putting in road markings in the village square; this might help improve the appearance of tidiness, as would some resurfacing around the pump area.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Hillview Drive was very well presented, but try to watch the weeds by kerbing. New flower beds were noted in front of the estate, which is also very positive. Well done in this regard. The white house with a red door was particularly admired, as were the roses outside the yellow house next to the Furrow. Try to paint this yellow house. Generally, premises in the village are well presented. Good performance under this category; well done.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All six approach roads were very well presented. The adjudicators could not find fault with them. The grass had been neatly cut; tree planting and flower beds were noted. The presentation is a credit to the committee and residents and those involved. The adjudicators would also like to commend the area down to Drummers Well, which was well maintained, as was Drummers Well itself.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Narraghmore is a pretty, quaint and welcoming village, and one which the adjudicators enjoyed their visit and reflected positively on the work carried out. Try to maybe consider, over the long term, taking on a project for improving the village square area. In

relation to other suggestions for improvement, the adjudicators refer you to the Tidy Towns booklet, which provides additional guidelines on how to expand each category. The adjudicators would welcome a more detailed plan. Good luck for 1998 and keep up your excellent efforts to date.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (6/8/97)

Narraghmore looked beautiful on the occasion of the second adjudication. Approach roads had been neatly trimmed, the area around the namestone was well cut back and graced with flower displays and the village itself was neat and tidy with attractive flower displays on approach roads near the village centre. It is important to attend to details such as the telephone kiosk, this had graffiti on our second visit and this ought to be rectified. Some consideration might be given to the redesign of the village square as was suggested by the first adjudicator. The County Council should also be approached to provide fingerposts on the main road for Narraghmore at suitable locations. One or two road signs in the village were in need of attention. Litter control was excellent during the second adjudication, well done. The wire and post fencing at the top of the Kilcullen Road will look much better as the plantings here matures. Perhaps similar treatment could be provided for the wire and post fencing at the namestone on the Kilcullen Road. Some boundary walls and dividing walls in Hillview Drive are in need of attention and the inner road here needs to be resurfaced. Drummers Well was difficult to locate on our second visit, it should be clearly signposted from the village centre. An excellent presentation, well done.