

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **PROSPEROUS**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	25	23
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	182	175

Prosperous, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed entry form. Good luck to the newly formed Tidy Towns Committee and to the Historical Society. Try to incorporate heritage features into your plans also. It is hoped that the committee will generate greater support from local traders, residents and school children in seeing the plan submitted last year through to fruition. Good luck in this regard.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Try to paint the school at Linbh Iosa. St. Farnan's Post Primary School was well presented, but try to paint the lettering. The Parish Church and Parish Centre were very well presented and good use of flowers was noted at the house next to the church. The Handball alley is unsightly. Try to paint E. Cummins and try also to paint the wall behind the pump. Flower tubs were noted along the street by Cummins, and the pub on the corner had been newly painted. The area by Statoil was relatively tidy and litter free. There is an overuse of signage at the Stop and Shop.

LANDSCAPING

The appearance, maintenance and presentation of the public spaces (including amenity areas, open spaces, footpaths and streams etc.) are a vital aspect of civic design quality. Poor presentation of public areas can take away from high standards achieved by individual properties. A nicely trimmed grassed area was noted opposite the basketball court of the National School, well done in this regard. Good effect was also noted with planting opposite the Maxol Service Station. Try to consider additional tree planting along the Main Street as this would have a soothing effect on the built environment. Grass cutting was also noted on some of the approach roads, e.g. from Newbridge.

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 competition 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, including the schools 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 Prosperous 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 the work 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.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control throughout the village was quite good this year. However, sprinklings of litter were noted by the monument and also by the retail area and the newsagent. Try to maintain greater vigilance in these areas.

TIDINESS

This section looks at the location, colour, screening and signage, including, bilingualism, of recycling facilities and the absence of fly posting and graffiti, together with the control of weed control at kerbs and at base of buildings. In this regard, weeds were noted in the car park by the tennis club. The area by the Statoil Station was neat and tidy. There is a considerable amount of on-going development, which takes from the overall visual tidiness of the village, as footpaths were disrupted etc.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

This section looks at residential areas including front gardens, out buildings, rear gardens, boundary walls etc. In regard to this, St. Joseph's Park was a good presentation. The park opposite was disappointing, however. An excellent effort was noted at a white house to the left of Finn McCarthy and the house opposite also. Corra Choill Pairc deserves a special mention as it was very well presented. A good effect was noted with flower baskets at houses opposite Moran's. A nice house was noted two doors left of Larry's and it was litter free. It was excellent also to see that the cottage has been rethatched. Ongoing new developments are noted, i.e. The Downings.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach from Clane a better effort is needed by the sign. New 30 MPH signs were noted. Both sides could be presented better. Closer in, landscaping was noted on the left hand side. Approaching towards Cummins Shop, grass could be better maintained. Otherwise the area is neat with flowers noted. Try to resurface outside the retail area in general as this would improve the overall appearance. An excellent presentation was noted on the approach from Newbridge, while from Lullymore a good

presentation was also noted, helped by the improved appearance of the thatched cottage.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This section looks at the overall integrated presentation of the village. The overall impression was quite good on the day of adjudication. It also allows for the opportunity to reward exceptional effort in overcoming a difficult problem. While the adjudicators recognise that problems exist, marks are not available for aspirations or complaints; they are awarded for achievements. In this regard, it is very good to see that the committee are very positive and that you are re-grouping. Improvements were noted this year in many aspects and, with sustained effort, Prosperous will continue to improve in this competition.