

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SUNCROFT**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 20-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	25
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	16
Litter Control	40	22	24
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	179	173

Suncroft, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your detailed form and map which were very helpful during the course of adjudication. The adjudicators commend your efforts to develop a nature trail - well done in this regard. In approaching this project, try to bear in mind that it might be a facility for visitors as well, so appropriate information and signage will be needed. The adjudicators look forward to the submission of your detailed five year plan. This plan should be simple and realistic, covering 3 - 5 pages, together with a map outlining areas for improvement or particular problem areas. Try to get greater input from your local authority, business community, residents and schools. You might concentrate on creating awareness and carrying out a few key projects, such as cleaning up the car park of the GAA, for next year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The grey building would benefit from proper painting and the shutters are somewhat unsightly and do not create a welcoming effect to this, otherwise, attractive village. Morrin's was nicely presented with flower tubs noted. Flower tubs were also noted outside the cemetery. A very attractive monument was noted within the church grounds. The church and its grounds were well presented also. McNally's would benefit from painting and litter was noted outside.

LANDSCAPING

Tree planting was noted at Carna Cemetery. Flower beds were looking very well at the school grounds; well done in this regard. A very good presentation was noted at the pump area, with the pump itself freshly painted. A nice floral presentation was also noted outside the school. New tree planting was also noted in Church View Estate; well done in this regard. Could the playground area be improved? An excellent effort was noted with flowers at the side of Morrins also, even though it wasn't that visible. Well done, nevertheless..

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 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 Suncroft 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 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 nature walk; it is great to see such initiative in this regard. It is also good to see a reduction in hedge and verge cutting. Although the presentation was quite good, you appear to have struck a good balance in allowing thick hedgerows, yet at the same time creating a generally neat and tidy appearance along grassed areas.

LITTER CONTROL

New litter bins were noted, for example, outside McNally's. Litter was evident at the doorway of St. Brigid's National School. It was also evident at the entrance to Church View Estate at the right hand side where grass was cut. Litter was, regrettably, very bad in the car park of the community hall. Overall, there is a need for improvements here and it is essential that you get School Litter Patrols and increased awareness among the residents of the village in order to control this aspect.

TIDINESS

Generally, there is a very neat and tidy appearance. This could be helped by a better presentation in buildings, and through improved kerbing and resurfacing of footpaths. Weeds were also a problem in places by footpaths.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The whole area of Church View Estate is very well presented apart from the litter noted. New tree planting was noted - new foot paths are needed also. Try to replace the bins and seating at Carna Park. The grass had been cut, which was good to see, but weeds along by kerbing takes from the overall appearance. Some good individual efforts were noted in this park. An excellent effort, as already mentioned, was noted to the side of Morrin's.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approaching from Seamus Bridge, a good presentation was noted at the name plate. Grass had been neatly cut, but the right hand

side would benefit from selective cutting. In general, resurfacing is needed along the Main Street. Approaching from Newbridge, a nice presentation was again noted with flowers. At the Suncroft sign, grass could be cut on both sides.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression is that Suncroft is a pretty village with good evidence of efforts by many different sectors. However, the village has fallen down in one or two areas this year, particularly in the area of litter control. Try to work on this for next year. Many towns and villages have got to grips with this problem, so Suncroft must play its part in ensuring that litter does not feature in next year's adjudication. Good luck in your project to develop the nature trail.