

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TIMOLIN**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 20-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	24	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	18
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	174	169

Timolin, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your form and map and the adjudicators note your comments. The adjudicators appreciate that it is a very busy road and one which takes its toll on the buildings, and on noise pollution. However, the whole purpose of this competition, as many towns have shown, is that improving presentation and tidiness, which includes advertising, can bring about improved business as a well presented building will attract greater business. Apart from that, it is felt that additional major infrastructure improvements are needed. The adjudicators again recognise that the village may be by-passed, but traffic calming measures need to be put in place to slow traffic down. The adjudicators have tried to keep your comments in mind during the adjudication.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The adjudicators recognise that the high volume of traffic takes its toll on the presentation of buildings in Timolin. However, it would be great to see if premises could either be washed or painted on a regular basis to counteract the effect of the traffic. In this regard, Dunne's Sportsman Inn would benefit from painting. The Oakleaf Tavern was generally well presented. The Irish Pewter Mill was a lovely presentation. Well done in this regard. St. Mullin's Church/the old Nunnery had a very good presentation, particularly at its entrance with flower tubs noted. There was a good approach to the maintenance of this area. The adjudicators recognise that the derelict buildings are a sensitive spot, but hopefully, in time, these will be overcome. Your other comments are noted also in relation to other premises. Flower tubs were noted at the Food Market. The school was very neat and tidy and had a nice presentation. A new phone kiosk was noted at the entrance to the residential park. Try to, perhaps, screen off the entrance to Dunnes Haulage, or improve this area.

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. Excellent landscaping was noted in the car park to the rear of the Willow Restaurant; well done in this regard. It obviously has taken a good deal of work in maintaining this area. Shrubbery was also noted to the front of the derelict building on the main road, also well done here. The grassed area in the residential estate was also well presented.

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 Timolin 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. The bank area around the stream has been allowed to develop naturally, which is encouraging to see. The graveyard had maintenance, yet allowed for wildlife conservation within the surrounding area.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control throughout the village was very good, in light of the high volume of traffic.

TIDINESS

Try to paint or replace the Dunlavin sign at the signpost. The approaches would also benefit from improved works. There appears to be a catch-twenty-two with the high volume of traffic, little work can be done. The assistance of the local authorities is going to be needed in this regard.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residential park was well presented this year. Also, good individual efforts were noted with gardens. Try to paint the seating at the derelict buildings. The dumping of gravel under the tree within the residential park takes from the overall appearance - try to remove this as soon as possible. In other areas, good individual efforts were also noted; for example, St. Mullin's House had a very good presentation in its garden.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approaching from Moone, there is a need to replace the sign. A floral display was noted in this area. It was disappointing to see that the petrol station is now vacant. Try to resurface the left hand

side of the Main Street by the derelict building. Grassed areas were generally cut, but try to watch the weeds by the walls. Approaching from Kilcullen, the junction to Dunlavin was disappointing. Flowers were noted at the Timolin sign. A better presentation was noted on the road down to the Irish Pewter Mill in terms of maintenance of grass which is a good relief from the busy main road. Again, try to work on improving the fencing along this road.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is evidence of efforts being made throughout Timolin this year. Perhaps you might make continued efforts with your local authority in terms of trying to generate improvements, as a result of problems caused by traffic. Do not give up as you have a very attractive village, which suffers from the volume of traffic passing through it. Good luck for next year.