

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ATHLACCA**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	26
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	20	19
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	18	18
Tidiness	20	7	8
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	165	163

Athlacca, Co. Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thanks for your detailed questionnaire and descriptive map; reference was made to your work programme for the oncoming 3 years. It is obvious from ongoing work that there is good co-operation between the tidy towns committee, other community associations and public agencies. This type of interaction will be very beneficial and the fruits of such will be seen in years to come.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most buildings both private and public were very well presented. The Anglers Rest was again noted for its cleanliness with nice flower beds in the parking area. The Top Oil sign was dirty and looks a little forlorn; maybe something could be done with this prior to next year's competition. The Muintir na Tire Hall and GAA grounds were in good condition but both could benefit from imaginative but not too elaborate planting schemes. Both the Shop Local and Pub across the way could do with a tidying up; a proliferation of window stickers in the case of the shop and building rubbish in the case of the pub did not enhance the immediate area. All that is needed is a small bit of effort to make this a very attractive focal point of the village. The school boundary wall, as was the case last year, is in need of a coat of paint. The Church and grounds were in very good condition with the adjoining graveyard extremely well maintained. The Creamery and its adjacent yard on the Bruff road is still in an unsatisfactory condition which is a great pity because of its historical association with times when it was the meeting point for local farmers.

LANDSCAPING

Last year's adjudicator remarked how sad the log surround flower bed in the village green looked. This year there was a little more vibrancy but could be better. As the village is quite small it needs all its assets looking their best. More could be made of the village green. Very little has been done with the bridge as you approach from Banogue; this is a pity as it has potential. Hopefully, your work plan will address all these issues. There a number of other features that if attended to would enhance the overall look of Athlacca. For instance, the old pump area across from the Angler's Rest could be restored to its former glory. The 3 year plan will help to identify areas for attention in this category.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The proposed work plan should identify areas of wildlife which could be developed. Indeed there are many natural areas in Athlacca with potential under this sector. The Morning Star river, a tributary of the Maigue, is a bonus which many similar villages do not have so why not develop a project around it. Enlist the help of some local environmental expert who would devise a programme for school goers.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was reasonable on a gusty adjudication day. I would suggest that more bins be made available at selected spots on the outskirts of the village.

TIDINESS

More attention should be given to this category. I do not wish to be overly critical but unfortunately there was evidence of untidiness to be seen in many parts of the village. Weed control seems to be problematical; the Committee need to make a strong effort to correct this for next years competition.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Cois Abhann houses were very well presented as were a number of private residences with very attractive gardens. There were one or two residences that needed attention but overall this category was good

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category was acceptable. On the Meanus Rd grass margins were cut but not cleared up; hedgerows were trimmed effectively. More attention should be given to fencing and gates on this road as some were in need of repair. As mentioned previously the bridge area is also in need of attention. The Bruree road margins were cut but the Athlacca sign was obscured by overgrown hedgerows.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Athlacca has the potential to do very well in future competitions but as stated last year a concerted effort is needed from all sections of the community. The workplan will hopefully outline reasonable objectives over a three year period.