

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **COLLON VILLAGE**
County : **LOUTH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	34
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	23	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	188	185

Collon, County Louth

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

From the planning material supplied with the application one can see that the committee has taken a very extensive overview of the Collon area. The objectives that have been focused on are all very important. An understanding of the challenges facing Collon are easily grasped by standing on the main road for a few minutes. Villages like this were never built to have such traffic passing through and all the stresses of this are noticeable. Great credit is due to Collon for the achievements to date under these circumstances. Each year a reassessment of the planning can be examined to see results and adjust targets.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is a wide range of building styles in Collon. The buildings in the square are especially noteworthy with their pleasant setting. If all the buildings were painted the same colour would this be an improvement? Business premises are well tended. Parking is a problem and at one point outside John Watters pub, cars were parked at right angles to the wall and completely on the pavement making pedestrian passage impossible. The tyre centre, Round House and building opposite Forge Gallery would benefit from attention. The manner in which the telephone boxes are positioned in the wall is a lovely idea.

LANDSCAPING

The village square is attractively presented. One house could benefit from a little attention to the nettles. A beautiful rose on the walls of another house was most pleasant and indicates how important the work of individual gardeners can be. Containers on grass verges are less effective than on hard surfaces. The larger the container the more bold the planting must be. Excellent hanging baskets at a house on the road opposite the entrance to Mellifont Abbey were a delight to see. The entrance to Mellifont Abbey gives a nice touch to the village.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The development at Hungry Hill is admirable. The riverside walk project is very worthwhile and should provide an excellent opportunity for wildlife appreciation. There are so many interesting hedgerows in this area and trees. Perhaps a search for more possibilities for nature walks could be investigated away from the sound of passing traffic.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is good. The passing traffic must present problems in this regard and this is noticeable as one walks out the roads from the village.

TIDINESS

A very tidy appearance is characteristic of Collon. Car parking,

and the state of footpaths are not helpful.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The efforts of individual garden owners plays an important part in the presentation of residential areas in Collon. Every effort by one person becomes greatly appreciated by the village in general. Papal drive has a cared for appearance.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Speed and volume of traffic through Collon is a predominating difficulty. These take their toll on the roads and streets. The Kells road is peaceful and pleasant with simple style of trees, grass and grassed verges. The Oriel Road approach is also pleasant. If the hedge was lowered at some points along the Drogheda road one could avail of glimpses of attractive views.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A well cared for village with a good focus on the needs for improvements