

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KNOCKBRIDGE**  
County : **LOUTH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	39
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	26	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	24
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>215</b>

## **Knockbridge, County Louth**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The questionnaire and map provided with the application form were most helpful. This involves people and confers ownership on the projects that are selected as priorities. The plans are very practical. Each year the progress report should be examined and new or modified aims made. This way a plan stays alive and relevant. The plans at Stephenstown pond are outstanding and must give great pride to the committee.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

McNamee's Pub, Brodigan's and the Post Office are very nicely presented. The derelict cottage continues as it is and hopefully this will soon be resolved. The lamp standards are an attractive feature. The Church, Village Hall and School are all very well presented and the framework of all these buildings together with the residential houses makes Knockbridge a very pleasant place.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The landscaping in general around the village is commendable. The Oak tree plantation behind the school is struggling. Sycamore and ash trees are very successful in this area as evidenced by the mature trees of these all around the area. Large trees are often difficult to establish if they have come from a sheltered nursery and suddenly have to face the elements in an exposed site. Frequently dense plantings of small trees succeed well and give a nice grove effect. Similarly the trees at the Church car park are in difficulty. There is attractive planting at the Prefabs at the school and the natural timber log containers are very attractive. The Pyracanthas at Drummonds site are very effective. Does the fence have to be so high and off putting? On the approach roads large Ash trees are thriving. Ash is an obvious choice for tree planting and preferable to many of the highly ornamental trees in this situation. The beautiful roses on McNamee's wall are a pleasure to see. This shows how one plant well placed can have such an impact.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The hedgerows and walls in the area offer lovely examples of the vegetation that will promote wildlife. The Stephenstown pond project is a fantastic development . This provides such a fine amenity. The provision of bird nesting boxes and information boards is helpful. Some waterside planting of Dogwoods, Iris, Gunnera and Hostas could be considered . Large block plantings of these would give a more natural effect at the edges and promote further wildlife.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

The litter control at Stephenstown Park was excellent. Some litter strewn on the Louth Road was unfortunate. This proves that litter control is a seven day week job.

## **TIDINESS**

The overall appearance of Knockbridge was of a very tidy village with great attention to detail at every point.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Individual gardens play a major part in the appearance of towns and villages. Many gardens on all the approach roads were well kept and the diversity makes for added interest. The area at Knockattin was especially noted.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The treatment of the approach roads is very attractive. This illustrates that grass, hedges and trees are the vital components of the best of the Irish countryside. All of the roads were nicely treated without being over colourful.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

This is a delightful village and the inclusion of Stephentown pond makes it a jewel for the area.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (10/8/97)**

The entry sequence to this village is very pleasant, well presented and adjacent gardens greatly contributed to the display of the public spaces. Some of the hedges along the roads may require more diligent maintenance, though some hedges have ash trees growing through them and perhaps these should be left to emerge through as a method of maintaining vegetation continuation with the surrounding countryside. The floral displays look very well and are appropriately placed to achieve maximum effect. The trellis on the end gable of the farm building is an innovative method for integrating the planter with building. The sports grounds are very well handled and ensure a harmonious setting with adjacent lands. Perhaps the single most important element which requires greatest attention is that of litter control, both from the perspective of loose litter and gravel on road surfaces. The lands to the rear of the graveyard had quite a bit of loose litter. The possible demolition of the thatched cottage may create an unwanted gap in one of the few street side terraces in the village and consideration should be given to maintaining as much of the existing urban fabric as possible. Stephenstown pond is an exceptional facility which demonstrates the effectiveness of the local community and demonstrates great benefit to all who use it. The landscape component should be allowed to mature a couple of years before being submitted for an award as there are some wonderful elements associated with its development. What is of particular merit is the booklet and other material which has been prepared for the general public.