

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TALLANSTOWN**
County : **LOUTH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-97

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1997 | Mark Awarded 1996 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 37 | 37 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 30 | 30 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 30 | 29 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 20 | 21 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 33 | 33 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 15 | 15 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 23 | 22 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 31 | 31 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 227 | 226 |

Tallanstown, County Louth

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The comprehensive planning that has been undertaken at Tallanstown is very commendable. With this approach an annual assessment can be made of the progress and any necessary alterations made in the aims. The proposals for the Leisure Park are very interesting and such projects are a great asset to a village. They can give opportunity for many skills and talents of the community to be availed of. The river is a lovely aspect of Tallanstown. Could there be a prospect of a riverside walk? The restoration of the cemetery on the hill and the nature walk are also both very good projects.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The school building is attractively presented. The venetian blinds and paint colour scheme make a very pleasant picture. The window boxes are also so well cared for. Distinctive stone piers with brick corners make an interesting feature throughout the village. The stone walls are an excellent feature and the adjustments to accommodate planting are well thought out and implemented. The cottage style buildings are very attractive and give the village great character. The Rathbrisk cottages are noteworthy. All the business premises are very well presented.

LANDSCAPING

A very pleasant green behind Centra extends down to the river giving a nice scene. The plantings within the extensions of the stone wall is a novel idea and appears very well without being fussy. The school is well landscaped. The trees framing the building nicely. There are attractive features at each sign in the village. The extensive green verges are restful and uncluttered. Container planting is also very effective in the village.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The development of the nature walk will be an interesting project. Already the start on this was observed. At the picnic area on the roadside a squirrel was noticed crossing the road. The Moat/Leisure park as previously mentioned will be an interesting project. Access to the river would be a wonderful asset.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is very effective and this results in a very pleasant picture.

TIDINESS

All aspects of tidiness are well under control. The buildings, roadways, grass verges and signs are all the essence of tidiness.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Both Chestnut Grove and Castle view estates are kept to a very

high standard of maintenance. This applies not just to the overall open spaces but also to the individual gardens. Every garden has a place to play in keeping a village look well. This of course does not only apply to the gardens in housing estates but to all individual gardens on the roads. The mature Chestnut trees are a great asset and future plantings of Chestnut should be considered in the light of the success of these. Ash trees are prevalent all around the area and although they may seem "ordinary" because of familiarity they are the backbone of the county's trees.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There are very good entrance roads to Tallanstown. Name plates/signs are very attractive. The plantations of roadside trees of Limes are growing beautifully as are the Birch. The lovely use of artistry to conceal the farm building is a novel idea. Further artistic work was noted at the building by the sportsground. It is wonderful that such talents can be availed of in tidy towns projects. There are excellent roadside grass verges and mature Ash trees on the road to the old cemetery. Thorn hedges are also a lovely sight in the locality. Unfortunately vandals have been at work on some of the name signs for the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The mature trees of Ash, Sycamore and Chestnut together with the many stone walls and hedges creates a perfect atmosphere for the village.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (10/8/97)

There is a wonderful sense of arrival into the centre of this village where the splendour of the floral displays and the general appearance of tidiness creates a very special atmosphere which is specific to this village. The entry roads have a consistency which is established through the tree type (though the poplars are rather alien to the integration with the surrounding landscape). There is a warm demonstration of friendliness and integration of both public and private spaces. This is reinforced by the provision of the designated picnic area (which was being used at the time of visit), other off-street parking areas, and a game of cricket being played on one of the few cleared grass areas. The signage used throughout is both simple and understated. This must be acknowledged as a very good decision as all the public spaces are guaranteed a more pleasant setting. Care must be taken in not opening up a wildlife habitat just to allow people to have access to such areas, thus the type of clearing works to the proposed wildlife area should be examined in the context of what is being achieved for this category. It must be noted that the old graveyard was visited and had been totally cleared of vegetation in a very harsh manner and concern is mentioned with respect to another local graveyard at Charlestown and how this might be managed. Overall, the visit experience to Tallanstown is one of very high quality and one wishes continued success in future years.

