

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NAVAN**
County : **MEATH**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	34
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	28	30
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	205	203

Navan, County Meath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed questionnaire and map. A great deal of work has been carried out in the past year and the town has benefited immensely. The ever increasing population/ new housing provides an opportunity for additional people to contribute to the Tidy Towns efforts. Thank you also for the list of what you have done and some goals for the future. The photographs were also of great interest. A 3-5 year plan looking at different aspects such as the development of wildlife, the prevention of litter, the use of amenity areas, shopfronts etc should be set out. It need not be too detailed but should have an input from all those involved including the County Council and other public bodies. The questionnaire is a good idea and creates greater awareness amongst the population. The judges would be interested in the results.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Congratulations to Navan UDC in setting aside moneys to encourage shopkeepers to restore shop fronts in old stone. Ludlow Street looked very well with a number of fine premises, including the Granary, the Medical Hall (the window display is excellent) Foster's, Bermingham's (some fine hanging baskets and flowers), Navan Travel and the newly restored Brady's. Very nice planting was noted at Maxol garage on the bypass. The completion of the hotel and new apartments will be welcome. Magnificent work has been done on the townhall and carparking area - well done. The graveyard was reasonable. The rusty railing area over the carpark needed to be removed or repainted. Ross Dispensary, Camera Cabin, Robby OMalley, the Watergate and Susie's Cookhouse were all well presented on Watergate Street. The use of old style lettering is to be commended. However, others on Watergate Street required attention. Shops at Fairgreen were well presented and the Carpark was clean. The Old Cornmarket was also well presented. A lot of refurbishment work has been undertaken by the UDC and County Council over the last number of years and this has enhanced Navan as a market town. KR Bookmakers, O'Flahertys and Callan and Harte are well presented on Railway Street. On Trimgate Street, P. Fitzsimmons has lovely old style lettering. The new McDonalds located in the old Post Office works well as the building has been retained in its original style. Versatile Bathroom Boutique and the Yellow Clothing Company also looked well. Market Square was very nice with some lovely hanging baskets and tubs.

LANDSCAPING

The hanging baskets and many of the tubs throughout the town are a credit to those who planted them. They are really excellent and well maintained. The roundabouts are well maintained by Flowerbrite. The display at the hospital is also to be commended. Chadwicks and Navan Credit Union are to be commended in

having the foresight in sponsoring the landscaped area and the roundabouts. Trees should be maintained, (there were three dead trees at the bottom of Watergate Street) and weeds should be removed from gutters and at the base of trees. The Round O had some lovely hanging baskets and was well presented.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The location of Navan on the confluence of the Boyne and Blackwater is a fine asset. The amenity parks and walks alongside the river are commended. Care must be taken that these areas remain tidy and this includes the carparks. A survey could be carried out by schoolchildren (perhaps part of biology/transition year project). A river this size has a profound effect on its environment and is home to a wide range of fauna and flora. Wildlife signs will be an excellent idea.

LITTER CONTROL

The centre of Navan town was reasonably litter free on the day of adjudication. However, there was quite a bit of litter in Flowerhill, in some of the outlying areas and in some of the estates. More litter bins need to be provided in the housing estates such as in Blackcastle Estate. Those already in place in this estate were full.

TIDINESS

Again the centre of the town was tidy and looked well. A lot of building and construction is being undertaken and this contributes to untidiness. It will all be worth it when completed and the adjudicators look forward to this. The uncut grass on the approach roads and the poor presentation of the older Navan signs also contributed to the untidiness.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The town seems to be growing at a very fast rate. A clear plan and objectives should be set out to all new dwellers - perhaps a simple newsheet outlining objectives to all new residents? There were a fantastic array of flowers on Killyon B&B on the main Dublin road. Athlumney Village was well kept and the new estate on the Duleek road presumably will be. There was a nice thatched house on this road although the area in front required cutting back. The new stone apartment development looked well - it is a pity that all were not stone faced. Many of the houses on Flowerhill require a facelift - even some hanging baskets/window boxes would make a difference. A lick of paint would also help to cheer up this area. The Blackcastle estate featured a huge grassy area - could anything be done with it. Perhaps it could be used for wildflowers or a childrens play area? A few trees needed replacing. There was nice planting at the entrance of Troytown Heights. Ferndale was well presented although on the main road there were weeds and litter in the gutters. Abbeygrove was not consistent in its presentation though people may have been away on holidays. Some grassy areas were not cut back while others were. Silverlawns also had an inconsistent approach. New housing estates will look well when landscaping matures. Houses along the Slane road were well presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the Dublin road, the old sign could be removed if a new sign is to be used. The margins need further cutting back. A few weeds were noted on the bridge. Lovely Buddliea hedges on the by pass road were noted. On the Duleek road yellow bollards require repainting and the grass needs cutting back. The Kentstown road was very clean with only a few weeds. There were nice stone walls though grass needed cutting back. Flowerhill was quite drab in its presentation. There were broken footpaths and some litter. Slane road required cutting back and selective cutting of grass. The old sign was very dirty and needed to be removed. Some weeds were noticed in the gutter. The approach road from Cavan required further cutting back and the Tara Mines Social Club sign needed attention.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Navan is progressing well in the competition - well done with the landscaping. However, more detail is needed in the categories on litter, approach roads and tree maintenance. The use of the Irish language is to be encouraged and this should be kept in mind when erecting new signs/ information boards.