

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **OLDCASTLE**  
County : **MEATH**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	19	--
The Built Environment	40	20	--
Landscaping	40	21	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	9	--
Litter Control	40	18	--
Tidiness	20	10	--
Residential Areas	30	15	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	--
General Impression	10	4	--
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>--</b>

## **Oldcastle, County Meath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Welcome back to the competition after a year's absence. The competition has a new look with more categories and such areas as wildlife are gaining importance in their own right. A 3-5 year plan is now required in order for Tidy Towns Committees to set out their objectives for development in the near and more distant future. The plan should contain information on projects and liaison with all required state bodies is advised. Good luck in the future. Please do not compare the mark achieved previously with the mark achieved this year - the competition is set out differently.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The Credit Union was well presented - a large unusual building. The Londis Supermarket could consider a more traditional shopfront as could Dynasty, McGraths and Geraldines. Crean's was well presented, and the Naper Arms was good. The Protestant Church was well presented. Other commercial premises that look well include Mullen's. Some of the commercial businesses on the Virginia Road had some nice planting. Repsa bedding could have been improved with some type of planting. Oldcastle Motors on Cavan Street requires a cleanup. Oldcastle Enterprise is well presented. The old school looks well. The church is well presented. El Dorado should be demolished or restored as a relic of the past!

### **LANDSCAPING**

Year round effect for planting could be achieved by the planting of shrubs. The use of flowers on McDermot's Shoes and Gibney's of Oldcastle is noted. Annual flowerbeds are difficult to maintain. There is a noticeable lack of trees around the town. If a planting programme is planned, consider using native deciduous species.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The use of Rowan trees is commendable in planting. Indigenous and native species are preferable to exotics for both trees, shrubs and flowering plants. Oldcastle needs to identify its wildlife potential. As part of a schools project and using local information from residents in the town and surrounding areas, a census of wildlife can be drawn up. An amenity area could be selected to be either home to a small arboretum or perhaps a wildflower area. Suggestions and ideas should be sought from the townspeople and schoolchildren.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Not a great deal of litter was in evidence on the day of adjudication although there was a small scattering in long grass. The litterbins in some areas needed repainting. A few additional bins are required on the outer edges of the town.

### **TIDINESS**

There were some weeds evident in the gutters on many of the

roads and this created an untidy air about the town. Some of the shop premises were well presented though others required some attention.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Small cul de sac of houses off the Mullingar road had some nice front gardens. The green area was well cut back. The bench needed painting and a dead tree needed to be removed. Some nice houses were noted on the Finea road. The new housing area will be nice when it is landscaped.

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

The Millbrook approach featured some planting in tyre containers. The containers could be changed although its effect was good. On the long lead into the town from the Mullingar side, selective cutting of the verges is required. Some nice stone walls were in evidence. The 30mph signs need to be uncovered as they are totally covered in vegetation on the Virginia road. There was reasonable presentation of all approach roads. Selective cutting of the grass verges and hedges to encourage wildflowers is the best approach although time consuming.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Oldcastle is a market town situated close to historic Loughcrew and the fishing area of Lough Sheelin. The town is laid out as a market town and has some fine buildings. A plan to develop traditional style shop fronts, sympathetic landscaping and the wildlife potential should be a priority in the development plan.