

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SLANE**
County : **MEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	216	214

Slane, County Meath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the questionnaire information and map. A 3-5 year plan is still required and should include objectives under the different areas of the competition. Slane is lucky to have such fine architecture, layout and the river. The wealth of heritage in its environs is also an asset. It is important that you put together a plan that includes all the towns assets and links them in a co-ordinated fashion.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The school is well maintained, nicely painted and had some nice planting. The service station on the Collon road would look better if there was more vegetation, shrub or tree planting. The Summer School Community Hall was well kept and the carpark was tidy. There was nice planting outside Mary McDonnells on the Drogheda road as well as in the Carpark. The majority of businesses were well presented though a number of them had a lot of goods displayed outside their premises leading them to look very cluttered. Some of the premises displayed old type shopfronts. The Old Posthouse, Mackens, and Slane Antiques were well presented. The Protestant Church was well presented.

LANDSCAPING

Some of the annual plants are high maintenance and shrubs should be considered for year round effect. The planting and landscaping in place was well maintained - well done to those involved. Cordyline are not native to Ireland and more indigenous are encouraged.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river is a wonderful amenity to have and the amenity areas are generally well maintained except for the full litter bins. The forest had a number of nice picnic tables and was generally well maintained. It should be signposted as a picnic area.

LITTER CONTROL

A lot of litter by the litter bins at the amenity area on Dublin road was noted, however, this was unusual to the rest of the town. The residents are obviously aware of litter and help to keep the town clean.

TIDINESS

Slane is generally neat and tidy though the area on the Dublin side of the bridge requires some attention. Attention to detail is required if you are to progress in this category - ie removal of cut grass and the odd weeds at wall bases.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Generally residential areas were well maintained with some nice front gardens and planting. Abbeyview on the Collon road was well presented. The residences up to Grangeeth were well presented. Crann Doire Bre was very well kept with some nice hanging baskets. The green area could be home to a grove of native trees and some birdtables. This was also the case in another estate the opposite side of the road where the green area should really be put to some use either for landscaping or amenity purposes. The carpark was well kept - a few weeds were noted however at the base of walls. The removal of earth at Abbeyview and creepers over the area opposite Abbeyview could be recommended. Further work could be carried out in St. Patricks Terrace. Grass has recently been cut and requires collecting. Castlehill is well maintained.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Dublin road approach is well cut back with some nice planting which was well maintained. The Collon road had a bit of earth material along its verges that needed levelling. The Drogheda road was neat and tidy. The sweep down the Navan road is good with some impressive planting.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Slane was one of a neat and tidy village. The use of the Irish language is now being encouraged and this should be remembered with all new signage. The traffic through the village must make it difficult to keep tidy. Well done on the work carried out in the past year.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (8/8/97)

The benefits of a late hot afternoon sun and ease of walking around demonstrate that the centre of the village is a very good example of a neat and tidy environment. The residential areas were not as well catered for though some of the entry roads were spotless. No doubt when works have finished on the developments beside Ardee road, this particular entry road will be quite fine. Consideration must be given to the safe access and exiting to the Ledwidge cottage, as sightlines are restricted, and traffic is inclined to speed up at this point where there is very little room for pedestrians. Slane is different from many of the towns in the region in having very little colour associated with the buildings as they are inclined to be constructed with a grey stone. This means that many of the hanging baskets require a more powerful colour palette which can make them more visible (particularly for passing motorists).

