

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SMITHBORO**
County : **MONAGHAN**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	27
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	23	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	21	20
Tidiness	20	10	9
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	170	164

Smithboro, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Smithboro continues to make progress despite very limited practical support from the local community. Obviously the support from the Clones Chamber of Commerce by way of FAS workers is playing a major role in your efforts and is indeed a worthwhile partnership. However, if you are to achieve award winning status, you will require the full support of the community at large. You can build on your success to date by implementing the recommendations contained in the Draft Development Plan - you will also require the support of state agencies i.e. Local Authority, Regional Tourism Authority etc. Thank you for the completed entry form, map and draft development plan - these were of great assistance to the adjudicator.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Business and private properties were presented well - some very nice gardens were noted and the hanging baskets on the Skule Inn were colourful as were the window boxes on the adjacent house. Weed growth was noted in the area of Mullaghduff Estate and this should be attended to. The picnic area was also in need of attention on adjudication day. On-going work at the Presbyterian Church was also noted.

LANDSCAPING

You continue to make progress under this heading. Flower beds, planting and green areas were nicely presented and well maintained including the bank area outside the old peoples homes. Landscaping was eye catching and street furniture was nicely presented. An increase in marks is awarded accordingly - Well done.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Lake and area of the canal offer many opportunities for the enhancement of wildlife and natural amenities. The historical aspect of the canal should be developed including the restoration of such features as Temple Plate Bridge and the lock keeper's house. Signposting of wildlife habitats is also a possibility - in this regard consult with your local wildlife expert. Your plans for Lough Ooney have been noted. Please adopt an imaginative approach and involve community groups when implementing your work programme.

LITTER CONTROL

Smithboro was litter free on adjudication day. However, you still need to up-grade the overall presentation of litter bins.

TIDINESS

A tidy village was the norm except for weeds in gutters on the main road. However, this problem was being dealt with by the FAS worker. Weeds in gutter and elsewhere (boundary walls, open spaces etc.) can develop very easily and need to be dealt

with on a regular basis.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Again Mullaghduff Estate (nice green areas) and the Old Peoples Homes were eye catching by way of good all round presentation. The adjudicator was also pleased to note some attractively presented private houses and gardens.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The long main road is a striking feature of Smithboro and you are concentrating most of your efforts in this area. Planting continues to mature and is making real impact. The tanks opposite Grove Turkeys would look better if freshly painted and the footpaths on this road are unfinished. Monitor the condition of signposting on a regular basis and freshen up as required.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The discussion paper (draft development plan) is a worthwhile document and the recommendations as outlined will require the full support of the community. There is still a lot of work to be done and attention to detail is now of priority. From the discussion paper you should be able to draw up a 3/5 year work programme. This is the way forward. Do accept the challenge with great enthusiasm.