

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **OLD LEIGHLIN**  
County : **CARLOW**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	26
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	10	9
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	20
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>166</b>

## **Old Leighlin, County Carlow**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Old Leighlin is welcome to the 1998 Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for sending in the development plan of your village and sketch map. These documents are most helpful for the adjudication and also it should be helpful to you in planning and reviewing your work over the coming years. Although you were recently formed as a committee, you seem to have achieved a lot in terms of contacts with the other agencies who should be involved in the development of your village and with the residents. This is a very good start and it is already showing in the achievements that you have made around the village in the past year. As you state in your plan and other documentation, Oldleighlin has a rich historical heritage and it is good that you intend to prioritize the development of these resources within your village over the coming years. St. Lazarians Cathedral and Holy Well would be focal points for visitors. With the involvement of so many people and organisations and with your commitment, you should be able to make very good and speedy progress over the coming years. Well done!

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The village was very neat and tidy and it is clear to the adjudicator that most of the business owners take great care of their properties. St. Lazarian's Cathedral and graveyard will in future be a rich resource and focal point within the village. The walling along the graveyard looks extremely well. There are one or two premises and sites, which, with the benefit of a little attention could achieve the same standards as is prevalent amongst the buildings in the village generally. Well done in your progress this year under this heading.

### **LANDSCAPING**

You have undertaken a lot of work in the last year. The stone walls look very well as do the various planting schemes and freshly painted pumps around the village. It is also very good that you have made a feature of the tree that is located at the center of the village. We have seen the lay-by and look forward to seeing more development here next year, perhaps through the addition of picnic tables which you mentioned in your application and some planting. The new stone at the entrance beside the lay-by looks well.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

We note from your plan that you have identified some key sites to be featured under this heading. This is good and if you can involve the school children, they will be tremendously helpful in this area of your work. Care of the hedgerows and planting of

natural species is ideal and we note your intentions in this regard. This category is a new category since 1996 and a lot of centers are beginning to familiarise themselves and to start planning on this work in the same way as you have in your village. Your plans look very promising and we look forward to seeing future progress in the coming years. When sowing wildflower seeds, be sure to try and use Irish seeds, as they are best suited to Irish conditions.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was hardly any evidence of litter scattered in the village on the day of adjudication, this is commendable. Obviously the local community and the school children are very co-operative and conscious of the value of a litter free environment. It is good to have strategically located litter bins. If you develop the picnic area by the lay-by be sure to locate a litter bin nearby.

## **TIDINESS**

The village has an impression of tidiness overall. It is clear that most of the business owners are taking great care to keep their forecourts and frontages tidy looking. There are one or two spots where perhaps some weed clearance or paint work or repairs could be carried out.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The standard of presentation is high as regards residential development within the village. We think that the idea of building a wall in front of the new houses currently being developed is very good and it is good that the builder is happy to provide this. Do continue this good standard and encourage fresh painting and clearance of weeds from entrances and gateways always.

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

Some resurfacing work is necessary. Do try and enlist the co-operation of the County Council with this. The approach roads look well kept and it is clear that there is a sensitivity on the part of your committee towards the preservation of natural hedgerows. There are some attractive stands featuring flower displays in baskets on the main street of the village. The new entrance stone looks well. Do try and have the old signs on the other approach roads replaced with a new sign as this will mark the entrance more clearly to the village and be more welcoming. Overall the standard is good, well done!

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Oldleighlin is very attractive and has potential over the coming years to do extremely well in the competition. With your large committee, good number of supporters and co-operation of so many other groups and organisations, there is no reason why you will not make good progress. The general impression this year is really very positive and you have some fine resources within the village to exploit.