

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **VIRGINIA**
County : **CAVAN**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	39
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	21
Litter Control	40	29	27
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	206	205

Virginia, County Cavan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Virginia is an attractive village and was well presented on adjudication day. The contribution from the business sector was much admired and with a greater input from the community at large including voluntary groups Virginia can expedite progress. Continue to develop your strong relationship with FAS and Cavan County Council and liaise with your Council Engineer and Tourism Officer on a regular basis. Thank you for the entry form, however, more detailed information would be much appreciated by the adjudicator. Virginia has the potential to do well and this adjudicator will be watching your progress with interest.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Business premises in general were looking well on adjudication day with some premises being freshly painted. It was good to see this and confirms the view of this adjudicator that the Tidy Towns participation is a way of life in Virginia. The Chestnut Tree, Sharkey's, Centra, Brady's and James Matthews were also noted for the colourful display of window boxes hanging baskets and flower tubs. Matthews is also commended for the seating which was in use. Churches, Schools, Garda Station, National Irish Bank, Margaret's House of Fashion and Credit Union also looked well. The old stone mill now converted into residential accommodation has been restored tastefully and is an asset to the town. The planting here is maturing nicely. Some premises could do with a fresh coat of paint and if this were to happen your rating in the competition would increase significantly. Progress continues under this heading and this adjudicator is pleased to reward you with an increase in marks.

LANDSCAPING

In general the observations under this heading in last year's report still apply. The planting of young trees is highly commended and should be further encouraged. The rose bed at the top of Main Street would look better if weeds were removed and the planting at the entrance to Park Hotel is maturing nicely. Improved landscaping in the area of Ramor Amenity Park is highly desirable and should have a priority when planning next year's work programme.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Majestic Lough Ramor of great natural beauty is an obvious starting point for an environmental programme with a strong emphasis on wildlife habitats. As suggested in last year's

report consult with ENFO and Conservation Volunteers of Ireland. A river side walk on the other side of town should also be considered. The Lough Ramor Amenity Area could look better and requires greater attention to maximise its potential as a leisure amenity. Freshen up the presentation of seating and enhance the overall presentation of the infrastructure. This amenity has the potential to generate significant economic benefits for the town both in activity and leisure pursuits.

LITTER CONTROL

With the exception of incidental litter in the area of Ramor Amenity Park and within the grounds of Church of Ireland Virginia was litter free on adjudication day, especially the main street and this is most commendable.

TIDINESS

This adjudicator confirms that many of the problems outlined in last year's report still remain. In addition the access road to Lough Ramor is poorly presented with a poor road surface and untidy verges. Prominent tin roofed buildings still need to be freshly presented and the stone boundary wall of Park Hotel needs to be repaired at two places. In general, Virginia is an attractive and tidy town thanks to genuine support from the private and commercial sectors.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private and local authority housing were presented well with many attractive and nicely landscaped gardens primarily on the major approach roads to the town. The cottages on the Longford and Cavan approaches are unique and merit special mention. The new housing estate (Lake View) is well presented and will further enhance the residential aspect of Virginia when work is completed. Good to see the landscaping on the approach to the Industrial Estate on the Bailieboro Road - a deterrent to unlawful parking of caravans as happened in the past - well done.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Grass margins along approach roads to the town were well presented and grass cutting on the Cavan Road was noted. This road has improved greatly and it was disappointing to see the concrete blocks had not been removed. Street furniture was presented well, however, many road signs were in need of cleaning or repair. The young trees are maturing well particularly on the Longford and Cavan Roads. Problem areas under this heading include entrances to Virginia Handball Club and access road to Lake Ramor Amenity Area. Regular trimming and weeding is very necessary and should be a priority in your work programme

for approach roads, open spaces and boundary areas.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Virginia has the potential to do very well in this competition. A sustained effort on the part of the community, commercial interests and voluntary groups working under the direction of the Tidy Towns Committee and with support from the Local Authority will eventually bring the desired result.