

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **COLLON VILLAGE**
County : **LOUTH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	23	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	191	188

COLLON, COUNTY LOUTH

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The very comprehensive 5 year Village Enhancement Plan submitted by the Collon Development Association was read with great interest. The community of Collon must be commended for their participation in the preparation of this plan as part of the Louthscape 97 initiative. The plan sets out very clearly a schedule of improvements which can be undertaken each year. The Development Association must now decide which projects they want to achieve year by year. It would be helpful to include a summary of these with next years application. This way an assessment of your progress can be made and targets adjusted if necessary.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is an interesting range of buildings in the village, both old, new and historical. The public buildings are well kept, with the licensed premises in particular really seeming to make a big effort in their presentation. Watters, Donegans, The Mattock Inn and Mathews Pub and Shop all looked very well. The Forge Gallery Restaurant was also well presented but the adjacent buildings need some attention. The Church of Ireland is a very imposing building and the buildings around the square are very attractive in their fair green setting. Perhaps the adoption of a co-ordinated colour scheme for buildings in the centre of Collon, as suggested in the plan, might be looked at for next year.

LANDSCAPING

The village green is well tended and a pleasant opportunity to move away from the very busy road. As noted last year, one of the houses needs some attention paid to painting and nettles. The hanging baskets and flower containers around the village are very attractive. The new grave yard is very well presented, the grounds of the old grave yard would benefit from some tidying up. The overgrown site at the corner of the Kells Road would be improved with some cutting back of the vegetation. The view of the well kept Pitch and Putt course as one crosses the bridge and the impressive entrance to Mellifont Abbey on the other side of the village are further attractive features in Collon.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The small park at Hungry Hall is a valuable amenity for the village. The grounds of Mellifont Abbey also offer the opportunity for development of nature trails. A riverside walk would be wonderful, as would development of other walks on the quieter approach roads allowing an appreciation of the existing trees and hedgerows and providing a relief from the speeding traffic.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control must be very difficult where traffic levels are so high. Considering this, the litter situation was quiet good. Some sweet papers were noted outside the Church of Ireland and Watters Pub. Some picnic debris was scattered around the benches at Hungry Hall, indicating the need for at least one bin in the park.

TIDINESS

Overall, Collon presents a fairly tidy appearance. However, the broken down railings on the corner of the Kells Road and the varying standard of the footpaths does detract from this. As previously noted, the prevalence of car parking on the pavement is not helpful.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Papal Drive and the red brick houses opposite are very neatly presented, many of the houses and gardens on the main street add greatly to the overall appearance of the village. The house with lovely hanging baskets opposite the entrance to Mellifont Abbey shows how well its neighbours could look with the same care. The attractive cottage style premises on the approach roads also show what an important part individuals can play in the overall presentation of Collon

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

A difficult situation faces the residents of Collon as the traffic levels are extremely high. The speed of traffic with the attendant dust, noise and danger presents some major obstacles in presentation of roads and streets. The quieter Oriel and Kells Roads are well tended with nicely maintained verges and hedges. Lowering the hedgerows along the Drogheda and Tinure Roads as suggested in the plan, would allow lovely scenic views of the rich farmland of Louth and Meath.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Collon is a well presented village with a very dedicated community intent on improving their environment for present and future generations.