

Tidy Towns 1998

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KNOCKBRIDGE**
County : **LOUTH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	38
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	25
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	220	216

Knockbridge, County Louth

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The very comprehensive planning that has taken place at Knockbridge is to be commended. The plans for phase two of Stephenstown Pond and the Agnes Burns Cottage are very interesting and the completed project will be a valuable addition to the facilities already in place. The general objectives are realistic and you should continue to assess your progress as each year passes and amend your goals as it becomes necessary.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church and grounds are well maintained and the plan to signpost the beautiful Harry Clarke Window is a good idea. McNamees Pub with its spray of yellow roses was greatly admired. The Post Office, Brodigans and the hall beside the petrol pumps all looked well. It was noted that the derelict site is now up for sale, so this area should hopefully have improved in time for next years adjudication.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping in the village is of a high standard. McNamees Car Park and the small area opposite with the pump are attractively presented. The information board at the Church car park is useful and it will be nice to see Cúchulainn's Stone highlighted with sign posting, as it is of great interest and something unique to Knockbridge. The front yard of the school was being re-surfaced on the day of my visit, so looked a little bit bare. The flower containers in front of the Community centre and all around the village added nicely to the overall appearance.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Stephenstown Pond is a superb amenity for the whole area and a wonderful example of what a community working together is able to achieve. The project has been very carefully developed and it is good to see that disabled access was included for the nature trail and on one of the angling stands. The information boards are very interesting and the amount of wildlife living in and around the pond is fantastic. It is a valuable community project and commendable to see so many groups, like the Gun Club, involved in its ongoing development.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control in the village and at Stephenstown Pond was quite effective. Some soft drinks cans and other papers were noted on the green in front of the housing estate, which shows the need for constant vigilance in this area.

TIDINESS

Knockbridge has a generally tidy appearance. The surface of the area to the front of the Community Centre would benefit from some attention. It is hoped that the derelict site will see some improvement by next year.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The small estate is well presented. The end house with roses on the wall and very well kept garden is a good example for all. The approach to Knockattin was beautifully presented and a credit to the residents. The small cottage style houses beside the derelict site are very attractive and fit in so well with the rural character of the place. The houses and gardens on the approach roads make a valuable contribution to the overall appearance of the village.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads to Knockbridge are well presented. The vertically stacked stone walls particular to this area are an attractive feature. The football grounds have been landscaped very well to blend in with their surroundings. The planting on the approach roads combines well with the natural vegetation resulting in a pleasant overall effect.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Knockbridge is an attractive village. The connection with Cúchulainn adds interest and Stephenstown Pond is a valuable facility to have in the area. Overall this village is a pleasure to visit.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (07/08/98)

Increases in marks are hard to come by at the top end of the Competition. Knockbridge has done remarkably well - the wildlife amenity at Stephenstown contributes substantially to this. The pond and its environs were photographed and will be entered for the national Wildlife Award. This adjudicator had not been in Knockbridge for three or four years, and it was wonderful to see how developments which were in their infancy have matured. A great deal of persistency has gone into the present achievement - and even further achievements are looked forward to. Very best wishes.