

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	23
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	167	164

Louth Village, County Louth

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The map of the village was helpful, but as noted last year a simple 3-5 year plan is needed to pinpoint the projects you wish to carry out each year. Perhaps the committee could work with the new residents associations to come up with goals to be included in the plan.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As you rightly point out, Louth Village is steeped in history and it is a pity not to see more made of it. The Abbey Ruins and St. Mochtas House are very interesting buildings to have in your village. The production of permanent signs to explain and interpret these sites is a very worthwhile project. Most of the main buildings in the village are well presented, but some would benefit from painting. Gus Kelly Butchers, McCooeys, the Community Service Office and Credit Union were all admired, as was the impressive church. It was a pleasure to see the imagination at work in the James McGeough painted house. It is wonderful that such talents can be availed of in Tidy Towns projects. Derelict sites are a problem, but hopefully this situation can be resolved over time.

LANDSCAPING

The church grounds and cemetery are very well maintained. The beautiful Copper Beeches there should encourage more tree planting in the extensive grounds. The stone wall and brick paving in the village centre are attractively presented. The integrated seating got great use on the day of the inspection and the hanging baskets along the stream and on the various buildings added to the overall pleasant scene. The small green on the Dundalk road would benefit from tree or shrub planting. Chestnut, Ash, Sycamore and Beech are all highly suitable and if planted now will enhance the village for future generations.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The stream running through the centre of the village offers an interesting wildlife habitat as do the original hedges and walls in the surrounding area. Perhaps the local school children could get involved in projects to look at the different species living in the various habitats. The green on the Dundalk Road may be a good place to start a nature trail around the village

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was quite good. Some litter was noted outside

Finnegans Foodmarket, but on the whole your daily litter patrol appears to be working effectively.

TIDINESS

Louth presents quite a tidy appearance. Building work on the new residential developments does detract from this, but hopefully these will be complete by the time of next years judging.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are two wonderful display of shrubs and flowers at the entrance to Feran Drive. The greens here and in Abbey Court are very well kept and tree planting will enhance the overall appearance in the coming years. The attractive gardens play a big part in the overall appearance of the estates. St. Mary's court could benefit from some more planting in the beds and in the individual gardens. The individual gardens around the village and on the approach roads also have their part to play in the appearance of the village and should be encouraged to keep their gardens to the highest standard possible.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The village name signs are very nicely painted and are a welcoming feature on the well tended approach roads. The traditional vertically built stone walls and thorn hedges around the area are very attractive and should be preserved. As already noted, the new housing developments on two of the approach roads detract a little from the overall appearance, but this is only a temporary situation.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Louth is a pleasant village with its valuable rural character very much intact. Its noteworthy history and extensive ruins offer potential for much interesting development in the years ahead.