

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CASTLEPOLLARD**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	15	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>192</b>

## **Castlepollard, County Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Castlepollard has a classic townscape built around a square. This village/town has improved greatly in presentation over the last number of years and with its architecture and setting has the capability of improving further. The new carparking area in part of the green is welcome. Its location does not take away from the green itself as it balances the location of the old fire station. Both short term and long term objectives should be compiled leading on from your five year plan so as to give you direction in the future.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There are a number of premises on the square which enhance it by retaining their old style architecture. Newer premises also seek to enhance the setting - well done. O' Neills Takeaway must be commended on its shop front, which is unusually traditional for a takeaway. The Pharmacy and Murrays look well though some usual hanging baskets in front of some of the shops on the adjoining side of the square seemed to be missing ? The school on Water street could be improved. The Tennis court also on Water street was dilapidated and required mending. Some premises on Green street require attention. The Fire station looked fine and the GAA grounds had a nice new stone wall which will improve with the growth of wall vegetation. Both banks and the Churches looked well. The petrol station on the Mullingar road looked well. Mergon International was excellently presented - well done. The statue mentioned in the application for was not in place when judging took place and the adjudicators look forward to seeing it next year.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The town square is very well kept - well done. Due to the lack of sun this summer, annual bedding plants were not performing well, neither are window boxes and hanging baskets having their normal impact. Perhaps more perennial plants could be considered to build a landscaped framework for the future. The picnic area/landscaped on the main Mullingar road is to be commended. A tree with broken branches needs attention. Swathes of wildflowers could also be encouraged here or merging at the edges of the town. Tree maintenance is required and this must be ongoing.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Castlepollard should be able to identify several wildlife habitats around the town - meadow, hedgerow, woodland and freshwater (Ballyduffy). Please seek advice on the enhancement and

preservation of these areas. A resource analysis should be undertaken, perhaps in conjunction with the local schools and part of their curriculum as to what is there, with measures drawn up as to how each habitat could be enhanced and managed. Remember that the locations are rural and over-landscaping and the introduction of non- natural elements such as plastic/concrete in too great quantities will destroy rather than enhance.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was a scattering of litter in the square on the day of adjudication. Perseverance is required with regards to the litter problem. However, there were many bins in evidence and these were well kept generally, though new bins were required outside the estate and the school.

## **TIDINESS**

Castlepollard was tidy despite the rainy and dreary day on which it was adjudicated. The approach roads were especially tidy with no weeds in evidence in the gutters. - well done. Back street areas required more attention to tidiness.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The presentation of houses varied. Individual houses on the approach roads were generally well presented. The estate on the Packem Hall road requires wall repainting before next year. The estate between Water Street and Green Street also require the repainting of boundary walls.

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

The approach roads to Castlepollard looked well presented. The Packem Hall road, the roads from Finea and from Delvin were neat and tidy. However, take care that the signs do not become dirty and a regular cleaning is required due to passing traffic dirt. The Mullingar approach is excellent and the stone walls on the approach looks well. Church Street was weedy and untidy and would benefit considerably from tree planting or additional window boxes to brighten/lift the whole view.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Now, at the end of the implementation of the five year plan, is the time to take stock and critically assess the resources of Castlepollard. Prioritise your developments and seek input from all within the community. Good luck with future plans and work.