

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASTLETOWN GEOGHEGAN**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	22	21
Landscaping	40	26	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	12	10
Residential Areas	30	15	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	169	162

Castletowngeoghegan, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

This village, which is very much a rural village, uses the natural stone walls to enhance its setting. There is a sense of community pride on entering the village. It is good to see the new housing, as this will bring new blood and make the village itself more viable.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The buildings throughout the village were generally well kept. The landscaping in the Church grounds is superb and must have taken a huge amount of work to convert it from what it was a number of years ago. Clarke's Garage was mixed in presentation - are the pumps still used? The simple landscaping around the black pump is outstanding - someone has an artistic eye. The Garda Station looked well with its floriferous display. The roses in front of the Midland Health Board helped to disguise the fact that the building itself required a coat of paint and the grassy area beside it needs replanting. Claffey's was well presented as was the Drake Inn though the wall beside it requires attention. The school looked well and Brennans Bar, although needing new signage sported some fine flowers. The old ANCO centre was newly painted though the rusty gate beside it detracted from it. Perhaps the memorial to Capt. Boyd Rochfort should also be tidied up - though do leave the ox-eye daisies.

LANDSCAPING

Castletowngeoghegan is a wonderful example of how good and imaginative landscaping can be used to lessen the impact of negative elements within the village. Elements such as repainting requirements, rusty areas etc. are lessened considerably if adorned with plants and flowers though in winter months the areas that require attention must present themselves again. The climbers on the building beside Brennans bar looked very well as did the cotoneaster on another wall beside the bar opposite. This has good effect and shows how a dreary wall can become living and attractive. There is also good use of permanent planting and this has provided a good framework on which to adorn with planters/boxes and baskets. - well done.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The stream area beside the Kilbeggan road offered a tranquil place with flags and various other types of flora. Areas of wildlife should be assessed and then plans drawn up for their enhancement and management. Habitats in the area include hedgerow, meadow and freshwater.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little litter evident on the day of judging and this is highly commendable. One or two pieces were noted amongst the cut grass on the Dysart approach road. There were also a good number of litter bins in evidence. Perhaps when it comes to change these in years to come, a colour, such as black could be considered in order that they would integrate better with the village. However, bright orange certainly draws attention and reminds people to use them!

TIDINESS

The village was generally tidy and pleasant to walk/drive around. The Kilbeggan road was excellent and much evidence of work here was to be seen. Attention to detail is required e.g. repainting the sign pole of Claffeys pub and petrol station, and the building material in the carpark beside the butchers needed removing.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The small estate in the village is well presented and other individual houses have pleasant presentation of flowers. The new housing area on the Ballynacarrigy road was difficult to judge due to ongoing work and the adjudicators look forward to these being landscaped.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road from Dysart was very well presented with its lovely stone walls and the sweep of trees. The new speed limit signs on the Tullaghansleek Stud road were admired as were the stone walls all along the village to the speed signs. Some back areas e.g. beside the ANCO centre and near the telephone box required attention.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village has been enhanced significantly by imaginative landscaping. There are also a few nice touches such as the climbers up the side of the ESB station, the black pump and accompanying conifer. Attention to detail is required and the complete elimination of litter. Well done on your maintenance in the past year and good luck in the future.