

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **COLLINSTOWN**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	196	195

Collinstown, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The committee need to sit down and look at the village and how they would like it to be in 5/10 years time. Input from all the community is important. Then consider the players who include the community themselves, businesses, the County Council, FAS, schools etc. Problem areas were noted - now is the time to assess how the development and maintenance of the village will be carried out in future years. Communication with all the players is also essential as well as perseverance and patience.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Buildings throughout the village were reasonable. There did however, seem to be elements of each that required attention. The Church on the Mullingar road, though a fine building required a good grass cutting. The school looked well though again here the grassy areas required cutting back and beside here the grass in the church ground required cutting back. The Lough Lene Inn looked well though the Esso Garage was untidy and needed some attention. Is it possible to remove the cloth from around the pump or else repair it so that it does not require it?

LANDSCAPING

There was a deficit of hanging baskets, and window boxes in the village. A balance needs to be struck between the provision of flowers and baskets and integration with the rurality of the village. The boat at the centre cross-roads was empty presumably to be filled with flowers and earth. If this is what the community wishes, consider the use of permanent planting/shrubs and hanging plants so as to drape over the boat. This type of planting is seen sometimes in seaside resorts and can look out of place in a Midland village even though there are lakes closely. The stone troughs in the village look well - these again should also be considered for perennial-type planting or at least planting that has attractive foliage. A poor summer has resulted in poor performance from many annual plants. The wooden fencing on the Delvin road approach was admired and allows a beautiful view over the surrounding landscape.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Lough Lene is a wonderful amenity to have close by. Congratulations on the Blue Flag status. The work on the stone wall in the carpark will look well when complete. A sign indicating the wildlife in the area including the lake would look well here. It is an area much frequented by visitors particularly in the summer and has been landscaped well. Work could be carried out in conjunction with the local school assessing the resource in the area. This would help to increase the awareness and education

relating to wildlife habitats.

LITTER CONTROL

The village was relatively free of litter on the day of adjudication and the lake area was totally free of litter. There was good use of litter bins beside the lake. - well done

TIDINESS

The village itself was generally tidy, though uncut grass and the fact that some building material had been left out (Kells road) impacted on this category.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residences located on the outskirts of the village were presented well. There are some small housing developments and though well presented would have benefited from colour in the way of hanging baskets/window boxes etc. There are some lovely stone houses on the Mullingar road and the stone walls were being repaired on the day of judging - well done. Gardens on this road were also much admired as were the gardens in some of the houses on the Castlepollard road.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads were reasonably cut back and work was being carried out on the Mullingar road on the day of adjudication. The pole behind the sign the Kells road should be removed. The Iralco sign on the Mullingar road would look better if replaced by a new sign.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There seemed to be an air of despondency about Collinstown. It has the potential to do very well and the marks that have been achieved so far in the competition are excellent. Do take hold of the situation now and set out step by step the way forward and the adjudicators look forward to next years visit with anticipation. Good luck with the work.