

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DELVIN**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	--
The Built Environment	40	17	--
Landscaping	40	18	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	--
Litter Control	40	22	--
Tidiness	20	11	--
Residential Areas	30	16	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	--
General Impression	10	5	--
TOTAL MARK	300	144	--

Delvin, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome back to the competition after four years. The competition has changed in the meantime with more emphases on the environment and managing both urban and rural landscapes to enhance both the lifestyle of visitors and the community. Thank you for the map which was useful to the adjudicators. A more formal plan is required though this not be detailed or complicated. A 3-5 year plan setting out objectives in point form would be useful to the Committee. It should also have input from the community and consider the role of each of the bodies who have input into the area such as the County Council, FAS, Teagasc, MERTA etc. The village has the potential to do well and with new impetus from the Committee the village will progress over the coming years, so use the marks attained this year as a base. Best of luck with your plan.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The commercial buildings on the main street have improved over the years and new building has shown an increased investment in the town. The church and the parochial house are well presented. Though the railings of the graveyard required repainting. A new sign is required for the Ulster Bank. McCormacks Store is well painted. Dress Design is presented well and the Pharmacy is one of the best presented premises in the street. Greater attention could be paid to the sub credit union office. The side of McHughes requires repainting and the Castle Inn needs a fresh coat of paint. The village does suffer from some dereliction and unused premises though an effort has been made to disguise this - well done. The Caman Inn is pleasant - a good name, and the potential of parking for lorries being provided should be investigated as it seems to be a popular stop off point. The tyre centre on the Athboy road needs to be tidied back. There is a fence and if the tyres were contained within this, it would be fine.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping throughout the village is reasonable. The area on the Clonmellon/Kells approach looked very nice and was well maintained. Further planting in the form of window boxes/planters etc. should be considered by those on the main street. One colour or two complementary colours do make greater impact. A tree planting programme along the main street should also be considered - same species, again this makes better impact. The carpark/vacant area on the Mullingar side of the town could also be considered for a tree planting project.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Now is the time through you planning process to identify the

areas, in the environs of the village that can be enhanced and managed for wildlife. The Golf Club and castle is sure to be a haven for various types of both flora and fauna. However, there are also hedgerow habitats, meadow habitats and wasteland habitats(Mullingar side) that can be assessed and planned. This should be carried out in conjunction with the school to create an awareness and appreciation.

LITTER CONTROL

There were a few bits and pieces about the main street on the day of adjudication and the village did not look too bad. Litterbins were in evidence and used, though do keep them maintained.

TIDINESS

The village was quite tidy on the day of adjudication - well done There were a few weeds in the gutters and along kerbs and this does create an untidy view. A dead tree in the main street should be removed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses were variable in presentation. The estate on the Castlepollard road required attention on the front area. Grass needed cutting and the removal of debris was required. The areas in the front of houses on the Ballyhealy road also required attention. The houses on the Clonmellon road were satisfactory. Greater effort could be mad in this category though this will come with time.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Athboy road was good in presentation as were the back areas and road leading up to the Clonmellon road. They were cut back well and the stone walls looked well. The Castlepollard road however, requires new signs and cutting back. The Mullingar road was impacted by the vacant area. Has this been sold and are there any plans for it in the future? The approach from Clonmellon was good and well cut back. Do, on the approach roads especially out from the village, allow the growth of wildflowers in certain parts of hedgerow and grass areas. Signs both directional and speed should be clear and clean and will, probably, on such a main road require regular cleaning.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Delvin is a village full of heritage and history. Plans to enhance the historical element of the village should be considered. It is also on the route of the most important road that bisects the midlands of Ireland and hence very busy. There certainly has been an improvement over the recent past. Concentrate on a couple of areas to gain results e.g. litter eradication and tidiness and landscaping then focus on other elements of the competition.

Best of luck with the work.