

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **DYSART-WESTMEATH**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	27
The Built Environment	40	20	21
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	11
Litter Control	40	27	28
Tidiness	20	9	10
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	20
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>161</b>

## **Dysart, County Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your map and comments. As the village is small, attention to detail is required. As the Committee is small, others must be involved in work such as the area of wildlife which can be carried out in co-ordination with the school children. As the village is very rural, this must always be kept in mind when landscaping or developing an area. Good luck with work to be carried out.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There are only a few buildings in the village and if at all possible they should be presented well. Building material indicated that work was in progress at the wall. This will look well when complete. The church and bell require a coat of paint as do the surrounding walls. The gates of the church also require repainting. The school was reasonable though the gates and guttering require a coat of paint. Keenans could be brightened by some flowers/planters etc. The shop requires attention and the wall on the Castletown road requires repair.

### **LANDSCAPING**

There are areas of very pleasant planting in the village though generally it seems inconsistent when looking at the village from an overall perspective. Look at such items as the black and white wheels in the context of the village as a whole and see whether they fit in. Tree planting outside the church is to be commended and a hedge on the Castletown road was neatly cut back and commendably, ferns allowed grow out of the base which looked very well. There were also some nice stone troughs. A further number of trees could be considered in the school grounds - perhaps they could grow them from saplings or even seeds.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

It is good to hear that you are providing nest boxes, bird tables could also be considered. Encourage wildflowers by cutting back only the margins of the grass verges. The full verge need only be cut back twice a year. Seek advice from those knowledgeable about the maintenance of wildflowers and hedgerows. Enhancement and management of the wildlife in the village should be carried out in conjunction with the local school to foster an awareness and appreciation.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

There were unfortunately a few pieces of litter evident on the day

of adjudication, both outside the church and opposite the shop. The litterbin beside the shop was full and overflowing. A system should be operation that bins are emptied on a regular basis.

## **TIDINESS**

The village did not appear tidy on the day of adjudication for a number of reasons : dead cut conifer branches should be removed; uncut verges and areas of long grass, weedy areas at the base of the wall beside the church and a flyposter on the telegraph pole beside the church. There was a rusty sign in the green area opposite the Lawsons Cyress which needs removing.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Many of the houses in the village and on the outskirts, were well presented. Those that looked particularly well were on the Horseleap side of the church. A rusty shed behind the disused shop needs attention

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

The roads had generally had an unkempt air about them. The sign at the Athlone end was obscured by high grass, the Castletown road, though cut back , require the removal of dead grass and the Mullingar road required cutting back.. It is important that the name sign is clear and clean in presentation.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The village requires greater attention in various categories in future. Now is the time to take stock of why there was no progress in the competition this year, look at your resources and limitations and set out a short term strategy to gain additional marks in next year's competition. Concentrate on perhaps a couple of areas, such as litter and tidiness to start with and work on from there. Good luck.