

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **GLASSON VILLAGE**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	40	31	28
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>211</b>

## **Glasson, County Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Glasson - Village of the Roses and the work that had been carried out in the past year certainly enhance the village. The Heritage Centre is a credit to the Community. It has taken a long time, though it has been worth it. It is an interesting building and information on tourist amenities, services and attraction was readily available. Thank you for the good map and the plan - they were very useful to the adjudicators.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The built environment is generally presented to a high standard though a number of buildings certainly stood out; The Village Inn and Grogans looked well and were busy which is a good sign. The Garda Station displayed some fine red hanging baskets, and the Midland Health Centre was well presented. The Village Tea-rooms was also busy - could single colour striped awnings be considered instead of different colours. The Heritage Centre is a fine building and has been restored tastefully. Farrells was pleasant. And the Village Restaurant was presented to its' usual high standard. The broken Texas sign on the low road should be removed.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The landscaping throughout the village was of a high standard. There was a good show on the Sweep road and incidental planting throughout the village looked well. Windowboxes and floral displays must be commended. The rose theme in planting has been carried through the landscaping for the Heritage Centre, though this could also be emphasised more through the village. A brave move would be to forget altogether about annual planting and concentrate only on roses and perhaps other within the same family, such as Potentilla, Cotoneaster, Chaenomeles and Spiraea some of which have foliage/berries which provide colour out of the high season. Wild roses through hedges on the edges of the village could also be encouraged. Tree maintenance must be observed and a dead tree in the Heritage Centre needs removing.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The village has a number of pleasant wildlife habitats within and around the village. The stream area is well presented and was tidy, and this should develop nicely over the coming years. Take care to enhance and manage rather than change. Ideas/developments set out in your plan are to be commended particularly the planting of more berried shrubs etc. to encourage wildlife. Bird boxes/tables will also increase the number of visiting birds to the area.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The only place that litter was seen was on the Moate road. It is difficult to ensure that the village is litter free especially with a great deal of traffic flow. All residents of the village should be alert to litter and clean up as a matter of course should it be spotted. The litter bins were satisfactory and well used - the one at the bridge was full.

## **TIDINESS**

The village itself was very tidy. Both the Moate and Portlick road had an untidy appearance due to the lack of collection of cut grass. The traffic cones at the corner of the bridge should be removed if not required.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The houses within the village and on the outskirts were well maintained. Those on the Portlick road as well as those on the Sweep road looked well, and many of them had very pleasant gardens. A stone cottage on the low road looked well as did a house beside it which had some magnificent planting. A nice idea in the plan is that residences should be encouraged to pick up on the rose theme. There are so many different types of roses and so many names associated with them.

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

The approaches into the village were mainly good. The approach road from Athlone was very nice - with well kept stone walls, well maintained verges and roses as a greeting. The new approach signs do look well. It will make visitors and passerbys aware of the rose theme and lookout for them. The Moate road required further attention with hedges needing cutting, a new sign for Glasson and the directional sign was obscured. Further out pieces of litter and uncollected grass detracted from this approach. The road to Portlick also required the removal of grass. The Ballymahon road was good with a nice sweep of trees and a good clear sign. The back areas as seen from the road were well presented and that behind Grogans was excellent.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Glasson is performing well in the competition and a lot of work has gone into the maintenance of the village as well as the development and opening of the Heritage Centre. With regards to the heritage centre, assess who this centre is for, what they require and how you will provide it. It is also a community centre/hall from what the adjudicators could see and this is good as it is used on a year round basis and lives rather than dies in the dark winter months. It was good to see local crafts on display. The Centre should complement the craft shop in the village and provide something which is unique to itself. Continue with the implementation of the plan and further progress will ensue. Good

luck with the work.

### **SECOND ADJUDICATION (11/08/98)**

The village of Glasson looked well cared for on a sunny August second adjudication day. The grass verges on all approach roads were well maintained and the relatively new trees on the Edgeworthstown Road were coming along nicely. The village has a fine heritage of stone walls and buildings along approach roads and in the village centre. Main Street is terminated at one end by the fine newly opened Heritage Centre and of course the charming Glasson Village restaurant and stream at the other. The garden to the latter was as ever lush and beautifully maintained. The Garda Station was very fresh with well maintained grounds and the Health Centre was also very fresh. Although Anne's Hair Studio was fine in its prominent position on the Athlone approach it will need to be freshened up before next year's competition. Fly posting is an activity which should be discouraged, quite a lot was in evidence on adjudication day. To the Edgeworthstown side of the village the speed limit signs exiting the village were quite faded and should be re-painted. The out buildings with tin roofs also on this road should be re-painted in a traditional green or red to give a cheerful appearance to these buildings. Houses throughout the village were well maintained. Of particular note was a cottage in the village centre with its colourful roses and clematis surrounding the door and an attractive garden with a colourful display of gladioli opposite the Garda Station. The many B&Bs of the village are obviously maintained to a high standard and the largely residential Sweep Road was as carefully tended as ever. Litter control was not a problem on the day and the village was virtually litter free.