

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **HORSELEAP**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	--
The Built Environment	40	20	--
Landscaping	40	18	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	9	--
Litter Control	40	14	--
Tidiness	20	8	--
Residential Areas	30	13	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	--
General Impression	10	5	--
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>--</b>

## **Horseleap, County Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH**

Welcome to the competition. This village which is straddled between two counties is on an important location on a busy main road. It is right to achieve a base mark by entering the competition, however, do set out a 3-5 year plan in points which will identify the main objectives of the Committee. This should have input from all of the community and include elements associated with all aspects of village development and management. Well done with the fund raising and the Christmas activities, you are off to good start. Good luck.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The buildings were generally well presented. The church is fine though the greyness could be uplifted by some tree/shrub planting or some nice single colour planters. The Model Garden Centre had a wonderful presentation of its wares enticing the traffic to stop!. Paddy Ryan's was also well painted and as was the petrol station. It was nice to see the use of creepers on the school.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The landscaping outside the garden centre was superb. This expertise on hand will help tremendously with the landscaping of the village. The one colour also makes a great impact. In contrast to this 'cultivated' landscaping, the triangle at the Clara road junction looked very well - the margin had only been cut and there was a myriad of wildflowers including orchids throughout the grass. This type of management is encouraged particularly in a village in such a rural context.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Hedgerow and meadow habitats are prevalent and should be assessed as to see the potential in enhancement and management in the future. Selective cutting of hedges and grass margins to encourage wildflowers, the planting of berried trees and shrubs (preferably native) should be included as part of the plans. The local school should become involved as part of their learning curriculum and this would create an awareness and appreciation of their surrounding environment. Perhaps the village could adopt a flower and use this as a basis for landscaping and as a theme. Residences should also be encouraged to provide birdtables and boxes.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

There was a scattering of litter on the Clara road. It will be difficult to keep the village clean with such an amount of passing traffic though all members of the community should be vigilant at all

times. Litterbins are required and should be painted in dark colours preferably.

## **TIDINESS**

The village was not tidy on the day of adjudication. It was weedy in the centre, there were traffic cones that required removing and gravel which also required removing. Walk around the village and cast a critical eye taking into account why such items may be there e.g. the traffic cone may be required for a certain period of time. Again, tidiness is the motivation of the village community to expect a certain standard for their village.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

A couple of houses on the Clara road were well landscaped and the house beside the garden centre is well painted. There was a fine stone wall at the Mill house. The house on the main street with many bits and pieces is a landmark and well known. There were also some derelict sites though it was good that one of these for sale and progress may be made here.

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

It was good to see the traffic calming through the village. It certainly is imperative as the amount and speed of traffic on the day of adjudication was noted and did make judging quite difficult. The approach roads were reasonable. There has been an excessive use amount of weedkiller? on the Clara road and dead grass made this road look untidy.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The village of Horseleap is well known to those passing through on the Galway -Dublin road. It is good to see this village in the competition. With the traffic calming situation, motorists will slow and a tidy, clean village will be a pleasant sight not to mention a better place for those who live in it. Good luck with the plan.