

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MULTYFARNHAM**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	20	22
Tidiness	20	10	12
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	179	183

Multyfarnham, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Multyfarnham is a former winner of the competition and has the potential to do well again. The adjudicators were disappointed in the presentation of the village this year after performing so well last year. There were several areas that need attention including litter and tidiness. It is important that momentum is kept up and that standards are maintained. A couple of objectives set out pertaining to each year may help to give direction. These can be taken from the plan you are presently implementing.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Many of the buildings in Multyfarnham look well and much effort has gone into their presentation. The school was excellently landscaped though sand left outside should be removed. The old National School looked well and the Church was very tidy though the derelict building behind it is an eyesore.. Murtaghs, Weirs and Fagans are exceptional and the stone restaurant (An Tintean) looked well too - well done to those involved. The telephone box needs attention. The graveyard on the Ballynafid was neat, though the gates of the graveyard on the Mullingar road need repainting. The Holiday Village is very pleasant - the adjudicator hope that they were not suffering too much from the poor summer this year. The Franciscan Friary is a wonderful building and the landscaping here looks well. Rusty tin sheds when approaching the village from Coole detract from it and need attention.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping throughout Multyfarnham is generally of a high standard with incidental planting well presented. The central park area looked well. There was some nice landscaping in many of the houses and one of them opposite the graveyard on the Ballynafid road looked very well. The area around the information sign requires some serious attention. This is, most likely the place where visitors stop. The wall needs repainting, and there was quite an amount of litter here through the grass and down to the river. The Lough Derravarragh sign requires attention too.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The village is fortunate in having a river running through it. This freshwater habitat should be assessed and possibly enhanced through the introduction of suitable native flora. Remember it is the enhancement and management of areas that is important. The planting of shrubs that attract insects and butterflies should also be considered. The grounds of the Franciscan Friary must be a haven for wildlife. Has a survey been carried out to see what is there? Additional bird boxes and tables should also be considered by both commercial and private dwellings to

encourage birdlife in the area. Those knowledgeable in the particular areas such as Birdwatch Ireland, and Conservation Volunteers should be contacted for advice.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter was a problem in the village on the day of adjudication. One or two pieces were evident on the main street, there was some on the Ballynafid road, on the Coole road and a lot beside the river which was a pity and detracted from the overall presentation of the village. A more concerted effort is required here. Litter bins were generally well presented though some of them needed a touch of paint i.e. the bin beside the park area.

TIDINESS

The village appeared tidy in the centre and main street area, however, leading on to this, clumps of dead grass, dead leaves on the Bunbrosna road and Mullingar road and the removal of hedge clippings was required in several areas.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many of the residences impart a sense of pride. The village is in a really beautiful setting and is well laid out. Residences have made good effort and were well landscaped. A colourful geranium display in houses on the main street was admired. The house with the black gate opposite the Bunbrosna road also looked well as did the house on the Longford road with the fine stone wall. Well done to those involved.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads were reasonable in presentation. The Bunbrosna road was well cut back though hedge clippings which did not seem that fresh had not been removed. Landscaping at the corner of this road was colourful. The sign on this road was also missing - perhaps in for repairs or cleaning? The Ballynafid road was well cut back though the name sign was skewed and the yield sign required cleaning. The Coole Road was well cut back and well presented. The sign on the Mullingar road was also missing and the grassy areas along this road required cutting back. In cutting back the sides of the approach road, do allow wildflowers and ferns to show through and encourage them.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Litter and tidiness must be addressed in Multyfarnham if the village is to progress further in the competition. Perhaps the adjudicators arrived on an unfortunate day, but the litter beside the stream area looked as though it had been there for some time.. With regards to hedge and grass clippings - sometimes they cannot be taken up immediately, perhaps if work has been carried out in the evening - however they should not be allowed to lie

about as they prevent consistent grass growth under them and this gives a very unkempt appearance. Good luck with your work in the coming year.