

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TUBBERCLAIR**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	21	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	11
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	15	14
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	153	149

Tubberclair, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your detailed map and comments on the application form which were useful to the adjudicators. Tubberclair is a long village and had many areas to keep clean and tidy. Generally the village did appear tidy for which the committee should be commended. Some of your plans were not clear. The fence beside the school on the Athlone road appeared to be in satisfactory condition - why is a wall proposed for this area?

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There was a problem with a number of tin roofs on various sheds throughout the village. The school was presented to an exceptional standard with excellent landscaping and presentation of the exterior walls. The church was well presented but the exterior wall requires a coat of paint. The adjudicators look forward to the development of the old school on the Athlone road (FAS project). Foxes Foodstore looked well and displayed nice signage. The pump was well presented and had a pleasant surround of shrubs and plants.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping in Tubberclair looked well. The Garden of Remembrance is a good idea. Could it be signposted as there was no indication as to whether there was access to it from the road. Hedges along the roads were cut back erratically though planting where it had been carried out looked well. The village was also enhanced by landscaping carried out by private residences and the school.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

These should be identified and a plan should be drawn up to enhance and manage wildlife habitats. Hedgerow and meadow are the most evident habitats in Tubberclair. Use the advice of those knowledgeable in the field to help you e.g. Birdwatch Ireland and Conservation Volunteers. Involve the local school - they seem to be aware of their surroundings and an awareness project could be developed that would give them further appreciation of these surroundings.

LITTER CONTROL

There was a scattering of litter evident on the Athlone road. The adjudicators realise how difficult it must be with the passing traffic, though all of the community should be vigilant with regards to litter eradication.

TIDINESS

The carpark area at the church was very tidy - well done. However clumps of dead grass had not been removed from grassy areas and the erratic cutting of hedges detracted from the tidiness of the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses on the lower road were well presented especially close to the school. Hanging baskets were a strong feature in a house on the Athlone side of the village and these looked well. The parochial house was well presented and stone walls were very much a feature. There was also good use of climbers on the external walls. A simple thatched cottage opposite the church looked well and the house at the back entrance to the school was excellent in presentation - well done.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads were reasonable. The Athlone approach road was cut back , but weedy areas around the sign should be taken care of. The road down beside the Church also required the removal of weeds form the base of trees. The Ballymahon road also suffered from ungathered cut grass which gave it an untidy appearance.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Work which has been carried out on the village is making an impact - well done. A plan will help to direct future developments. Do consider selective cutting of the hedges on the main Athlone road so as to encourage wildflower growth. Perhaps hedges could be managed to, for example become honeysuckle and wild rose hedges in the future and the village would create an impact in this way. Concentrate also on becoming a litter free zone, though with the passing flow of traffic the adjudicators realise that this will be a difficult task. Good luck with your future plans.