

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TYRRELLSPASS**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-98

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1998 | Mark Awarded 1997 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 42 | 42 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 31 | 29 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 32 | 31 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 15 | 15 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 34 | 33 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 15 | 15 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 22 | 20 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 33 | 31 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 232 | 224 |

Tyrellspass, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you very much for the detailed map, the information with the application form and the update received later on. They were all useful to the adjudicators. This village is very attractive - it is a well known stopping point for refreshments and despite the huge amount of traffic that passes through it, the village still retains its village atmosphere. The Committee must be well organised and fund-raising and other events are highly commendable. The Committee also realise the importance of trees and this is evident through their work in planting them. Hopefully now that there are new owners of Belvedere Crescent, work on restoration will follow soon. Well done on the tremendous amount of work carried out in the past year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The premises and buildings in Tyrellspass all follow in commitment to the Tidy Towns objectives and are well presented. There are some buildings of superb architectural merit and these have been presented in a way to enhance their architecture - well done. St. Patricks Hall look fresh and was well painted. The Burmah Station was clean and tidy and the Church of Ireland looked very well. Other shops in the village which looked well included; Fitzpatrick's (Londis) Bradley's Antique Shop, Gonoude's Lounge (with its' nice stone) and Byrnes Drapery (well painted in black). Fagans also displayed some fine hanging baskets. There was however a blitz of colour displayed at Fagans between the colour of the paintwork and the hanging baskets. The Castle is an imposing building and welcomes visitors into the village. The school had been brightened by some nice planted tubs. Buildings that required some form of attention included: a garage on the Mullingar road which required fencing off, and rubble needed to be removed from beside the pump in the centre of the village. It would be advised too, that all the pumps in the village should be painted the same colour to create uniformity. The GAA pavilion also required a coat of paint. Perhaps another colour apart from bright blue could be considered.

LANDSCAPING

The whole village is aware of it's presentation and it shows a certain pride in it's landscaping. The corner of the Rahugh road looked well and other incidental planting outside houses and shops is to be commended. Consider perhaps a more co-ordinated approach in the future. It is advised that native shrubs and plants should be used rather than exotics such as Cordylines. Annuals have not performed well this year, in many areas due to the poor Summer, and replacement of these by more permanent planting should continue and create a framework of

landscaping. Tree maintenance is also required with several dead trees spotted on the Athlone road, within the new trees opposite the Castle and one at the junction of the Mullingar road. The green in the centre of the village looked very well - well done.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The idea to develop a bog walk is commendable. This should be carried out in conjunction with the relevant authorities such as the Irish Peatland Conservation Council. Assessment of the area could be carried out in conjunction with the local school children - i.e. identification of flora and fauna and then plans drawn up to enhance and manage the walk way area. A small leaflet could be produced at a later stage, though the appreciation gained from research and assessment will benefit the community most.

LITTER CONTROL

The village was essentially litter free except for a couple of pieces on the green in the centre of the village and beside the graveyard on the Rahugh road. It is commendable that litter is picked up twice a day - well done. The amount of passing traffic must make litter eradication difficult to achieve.

TIDINESS

The village was very tidy, however a couple of aspects need attention; traffic cones on the Mullingar required removal and hedges on the Daingean road required clipping and a wall on this road required repainting. Otherwise well done on a tidy presentation.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

All houses on view were well presented. The houses around the green looked very well indeed and were sympathetically painted. Houses on the Rahugh road also looked well. Congratulations to the owners of the cottages on the main street that make such an impact with their presentation of fronts and window boxes. Castlepark was neat and tidy and there were also neat, well presented cottages at Riversdale. There has been a significant amount of building and from your map, it looks as though there will be even more. This shows good investment in the village and gives an opportunity to initiate landscaping schemes around the new developments. The pink house on the main street which had been repainted, displayed a lilac and orange gate behind it and this detracted from the house itself. Work at Belvedere Crescent is eagerly awaited.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The roads were generally excellent in their presentation though the standard set by the Dublin approach sets the standard for all of the approach roads. The Rahugh road looked good and the well here was maintained. The Daingean road did require some

further cutting back. The Dublin road requires the grass to be removed from the base of trees and the light clippings from the hedges to be collected. Otherwise it is a wonderful welcome into the village. The Mullingar road was well presented, however the Galway road was not quite to the same standard and required further tidying. When cutting approach road verges and hedges, do encourage wildflower growth especially further out from the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village has the potential still to progress further in the competition despite the good progress of recent years. Attention to detail is required. Scrutinise the village as part of the whole landscape and see how it can be enhanced further. The development of the bog walk will allow for further progression under the category for wildlife. Do remember the other habitats around the village. Management rather than development is the objective in this category. Well done with the work carried out in the past year and the adjudicators look forward to your entry again next year.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (11/08/98)

Tyrrellspass (as I am sure is mentioned by every adjudicator) is always a pleasure to visit. The committee seems to have struck a careful balance between presenting the town neatly yet, avoiding overkill or over elaborate presentation. The many attractive and lush gardens on the Mullingar Road and the colourful displays of hanging baskets and window boxes throughout the village were admired. One or two problem areas which need attention are the mosaic to Troys shop (which appears to be empty) and a few plastic signs which have yet to be replaced with ones of a more appropriate timber variety. A few weeds were apparent to the kerbside on the Daingean approach. Buildings throughout the village were generally very fresh including the creeper clad Village Hotel and Claffey's. Bradley's was also well presented and St. Patrick's Hall was very fresh. The churches, as ever, were presented to a high standard and the high hedge leading down to the Catholic Church was neatly clipped. Litter boxes had all been freshly painted. The traffic cones on the Mullingar Road mentioned by the first adjudicator appeared to have been removed as had the rubble by the village pump. In terms of colour schemes throughout the village this adjudicator is in agreement with the comment of the first adjudicator in relation to loud colours. However, the lilac and orange gate behind the pink cottage on Main Street opposite the village green was to this adjudicator's taste. This adjudicator hopes that the committee is successful in its endeavours to acquire and restore Belvedere Crescent. As you have correctly pointed out these are buildings of unique cultural, historical and architectural significance. Construction work appeared to have started on the site and hopefully this means conservation rather than destruction of these unique buildings!