

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NAAS**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-08-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	29
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	21
Litter Control	40	21	23
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	19
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	200	194

Naas, County Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Naas is very welcome to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed questionnaire and accompanying map. The information supplied in the questionnaire made fascinating reading. It is admirable that there are so many bodies and groups involved in caring for the environment of Naas. Well done on the co-ordination of the input from various groups. There is some excellent work accomplished in the town; roads and pavements resurfaced, the provision of litter bins and seating, fine flower displays, etc. No doubt the Telecom cables will be ducted in due course.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Naas has an admirable stock of buildings with a wide variety of architectural style and function. Civic buildings such as the Town Hall and the Courthouse are impressive in their design and traditional features. Both however need better maintenance. Ecclesiastical buildings are handsome also and there is a plethora of commercial buildings both old and new with many of the old ones retaining their traditional architectural features. The 'Gogarty' properties on the South Main Street have some very fine traditional features which hopefully will be retained when these properties are being refurbished. The large space adjacent to the ETV property is unattractive. The rear façade and walls of some buildings on the main street which are visible from the harbour area at the Public Library is unattractive. These weather stained walls should be cleaned and/or painted. The side area down by the Sarah Floods premises is very well presented with its nicely surfaced road and well painted walls. This is a standard which should be achieved for all side areas and lanes.

LANDSCAPING

Colourful flower displays were noted at many locations around the town. It is good to note, however, the planting of trees in the town centre as these are permanent in their effect and leave a heritage for future generations. Their wildlife value too is also significant. There is further scope to extend your landscaping programme to the grass banks along the road adjacent to the Meán Scoil Iognaid Rís. These are highly visible from the carpark across the road. Landscaping might also be extended to mark the entrance to the car park across from the Meán Scoil. The area around the bridge on the Mondello road could be highlighted as an attractive element of the town. During adjudication it had a neglected appearance. The landscaped area on the N9 across from the Garda station looks well as do others in Naas.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The town park along the river looks quite magnificent and the swans here with other wild fowl are a welcome and graceful feature in the heart of a busy town. Well done on the development of the Slí na Sláinte walks. The Rowan trees with their bunches of bright red fruits (near the hospital) are attractive, of course, are invaluable for birds. Do keep us informed of the results of your wildlife survey and the proposed oasis at Millbrook. Well done on the wildlife corridor in the development plan.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was reasonably good during adjudication, however there were a number of weak spots and the most important of these were on the South Main Street, at the Post Office, on the North Main Street, at Superquinn and in the area up around Rushes at the bottom of South Main Street. There was also an area near the McDonalds outlet. Litter bins seemed to be adequate, so perhaps the problem is one of the frequency of sweeping. Another litter weak spot was the carpark across from the Meán Scoil.

TIDINESS

The overall appearance of the town is one of tidiness, however work in progress at a number of locations coupled with some derelict buildings and sites lose marks under this heading and, of course, create opportunities to gain marks upon redevelopment.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The extent of new housing development in Naas is quite breathtaking. All of course are being finished to a high standard of presentation. Those near the harbour seem to be settling in gently with their environment. Green areas in older estates, i.e. Pacelli Road are being nicely maintained. The variety of residential types and styles in Naas appears to be endless. The single storey cottages, both in the town centre and on approach roads, i.e. the Newbridge and Mondello roads, are a gentle reminder of old Naas. The namestones on some of the estates near the hospital are a welcome feature.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Carparking is for the most part well organised around the town. Some car parks, for example the one at the entrance to the town from the Clane road, could have their entrance points improved. The labyrinth of service cables criss-crossing the road at several points on a side road to the harbour by the Courthouse is visibly shocking.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall appearance of Naas is quite favourable and the town has substantial recreational amenity value. Some scope exists for a greater pedestrian focus along the main streets.