

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **STRAFFAN**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	32
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	193	191

Straffan, County Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the completed entry form, as it provides some background information before adjudication occurs. It is important to fill out every part of the questionnaire and provide a clear and legible map. Perhaps some of this could be achieved through the preparation of a three to five year plan which has not yet been submitted. The marks have been dropped in this category in the hope that a development plan will be provided in the near future. At present the village looks quite complete and unified and really does not require any new works, however, such a plan can indicate the method of maintenance and management controls that are taken throughout the seasons. The overall approach taken to maintaining the village is of a very high standard and the whole village reads very well as a single unit. It should be mentioned that the graveyard and litch gate were not presented as items in the written description of the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is quite a strong sense of enclosure to the village and the two church's act as very strong book ends to reinforce the central area of the village. The recently painted church has a very good colour scheme. The school could do with a higher level of presentation. The Straffan Inn has done something to enclose car parking however the surfaces are quite untidy. Keane's is very pleasant and has minimal impact on the village given the demands of modern petrol sales. Perhaps the sign is a bit dominant but this is one of the trade offs with modern advertising and they should be complimented for not having a large canopy over the petrol cart. The cottages beside the station are very charming and strongly reinforce the sense of an old village.

LANDSCAPING

All grass verges are well maintained and clean of cut grass. The open spaces and the crossroads are very well maintained and the geraniums match with the coloured roses. The small scale plantings add effective colour and perhaps this approach should be maintained rather than spreading colour around the village or at the entry points. Perhaps the hanging baskets need larger scale plants to make them more visually effective.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The entry forms could perhaps expand on the word "yes" as to whether the village is doing any active contribution to

wildlife or that it merely supports the concept of wildlife. This is an important aspect to be discussed in a development plan as it can direct future selection of trees for the public spaces. There are significant number of trees associated with the village and there is a good mix of indigenous species.

LITTER CONTROL

This category is very well managed and given the minimal amount of sources of litter, it really should not pose a problem in a village of this size.

TIDINESS

This category is very well handled and in general a high standard of tidiness extends to the whole of the village. In some areas the kerbs could do with a bit more maintenance and the crossroads could improve the presentation but in general the relaxed character of the village is a very pleasant experience.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Coarse Moor presents a very well maintained off road entry point into the estate and is developed in the character with the village. St. Brigids Terrace looked very well as did all the housing in the village. It is interesting to note how the many rose gardens have unified the various views through the village and establish the strong theme colour.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Entry roads are well kept and link in well to the nature strip outside of the K Club. There is a very strong defined entrance at the bridge over the Liffey and it is noted that a turning area seems to have developed on the corner which has some quite deep potholes. The road junction up beside the Butterfly Farm, though not within the confines of the village, is very well presented and the theme of tubs with a large display of potted plants is very effective in controlling traffic and maintaining the grassed areas. The road from the National School is just finished and has a very presentable image and one awaits to see the line markings provided to the road.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It was noted that there were still some political posters hanging on the entry roads into the town. Had they been in the village proper there would have been a drop in marks and it should be recognised that in general these items should be removed immediately after the elections. It is important that the village prepare a plan and consider its

relationship to the wildlife component. With respect to plantings, the village has a very strong theme and this is made stronger through keeping colour within the central portion of the village and not planting small displays in isolated areas such as near entry signs or indiscriminately along verges. The committee must be complimented on providing such a simple and cohesive character to the village.