

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SUNCROFT**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	19
Litter Control	40	22	21
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	186	182

Suncroft, County Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the completed entry form which was very clear on the aspects carried out during the past year and aided in the adjudicating process. Though you state that you were at the end of the three year plan, the appropriate document should be provided so as to express your mission statement for the next set of years.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The new monument plaque for Churchview Estate is very well presented and quite a feature at the centre of the town. It is a pity to have the mobile food stand so close to the centre of this area and though it may be quite a permanent feature, it should be more colourful as it does occupy such a prominent spot. Where painting has been recently carried out it has been very effective and colour selection is good. Perhaps the road environment is a bit too dominating, particularly opposite the National School and Grotto and its impact on the scale of the village should be considered so as to lessen the influence of the road and ensure that the built environment is more prominent.

LANDSCAPING

There is no mention of Pairc Ui Chathain as part of the amenities that should be adjudicated, though it is clearly marked on the entry roads as a Tidy Town amenity area. This small pocket park is very well maintained and looks well from the road. However its purpose was not clearly understood given its significant distance from the village. The park at Churchview is very well maintained and the terraced buildings that overlook the space are presented very sharply with the new colours and cohesive approach to colour selection. The new cemetery perhaps has a hard image which could be softened through the planting of trees along the road boundary so as to provide further enclosure to the space and integrate the boundaries with the surrounding landscape. The Grotto looked very well and the maintenance is very thorough. However the use of annual plants increases the level of maintenance required and there has been a shift in recent years to the planting of perennial plants which require less maintenance and require greater scale of planting as they mature; this could possibly help connect the Grotto back to the church more successfully. There is a need to repair some of the fences of the playground beside the Community Centre. The sports grounds looked very well.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The plan to continue the maintenance to the nature trail and sign posting must be commended. However there is no mention as to other impacts this category may have for selection of plant species within the village or influence on educational programmes in the school. There would seem to be a missed opportunity in treating the stream beside the entry road from the new cemetery. The examination of many of the recently installed plants highlighted that a significant number were foreign species and not related to the diets of native animals. This aspect should be reviewed so as to ensure continuity between the village and the surrounding landscape.

LITTER CONTROL

There are very few litter sources in the village and as such the overall environment was quite litter free. However greater attention is required at the entry areas to the residential developments.

TIDINESS

Comments from last year's adjudicator should be acted upon in reference to the G.A.A. park and the swings. However the grounds present a very high level of maintenance and are very presentable. With respect to the residential areas, there is generally an untidy appearance as there is no order to the tarmac and there is a significant amount of loose gravel on the entry roads into the housing areas. The new re-surfacing to the main road opposite the National School presents a very tidy image, though an overbearing appearance of road and its scale detracts from the village setting.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Ard Brid has a very pleasant cottage character and good central focus. The central area is maturing well and the new tree whips at the entry to the estate will look great in future years. The Churchview area is very well cut and has good flower displays. However there is not a significant amount of residential development in Suncroft and as such there is a greater need to establish a theme that would connect the various estates. The gardens greatly contribute to the visual amenity around the open spaces.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There is a need for new re-surfacing to be carried out in some areas of the village. However the extensive amounts that were carried out opposite the National School are perhaps too large to provide a comfortable environment for either pedestrian or village setting and perhaps the roadway could do with clear lane definition through the addition of further white lines. The road signs should be cleaned. However in

general, arrival through the village through any of the entry roads is very pleasant and the extended maintenance serves to provide a very good entrance sequence to the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Suncroft is a very small village with quite a strong central focus within the Churchview area. The new road works opposite the National School significantly impact on the village and should be addressed immediately so as to ensure a proper environment for the area where the children spend most of their time during the winter months. The effectiveness of the Committee is seen in the public areas and around Churchview and as such there is full confidence that future results will be very effective.