

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **ATHBOY**  
County : **MEATH**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	18	19
Tidiness	20	10	11
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	23
General Impression	10	5	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>178</b>

## **Athboy, County Meath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Athboy has reached a certain standard and now needs to step up its effort under several headings if it is to progress further and achieve its true potential. A priority should be the preparation of a development plan which addresses basics, e.g. litter control. Improved maintenance of grass verges, weeding footpaths etc., would have a big impact on the appearance of the town. The various points in the entry form were noted by the adjudicator.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There have been considerable improvements in the presentation of shop fronts and private houses in recent years in the central part of the town. Most of the public buildings are in good condition. The well painted silver railings at the Catholic Church are a nice feature. The Church of Ireland, the Library and the landscaped car-park look well in their off-street location. St. James' School is well presented. However there are still many premises throughout the town that need renovation and unsuitable name signs are also in evidence.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The Fair Green is a centre piece for the town and is well kept. The amenity area at St. Joseph's Villas is well planted and cared for. Other landscaping is let down by lack of attention to detail, e.g. the grassed triangle at the Mullingar/Ballivor junction has weeds at base of the stone wall and there are too many signs, several of which are in poor condition. The trees along the Main Street are a good feature. Some have ornamental metal protective surrounds, others have not. At least one of the trees is in poor condition and should be replaced and there is scope to plant additional trees.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The stream has potential for amenity development and is an important wildlife habitat. Berried trees and shrubs help support a variety of birds and insects and more should be planted where possible.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control continues to be poor. Litter is present on all the approach roads as well as in the centre of the town. Many of the litter bins require painting. Improved litter

control should be a top priority.

## **TIDINESS**

Litter, weedy footpaths and gravelled margins, inadequate road and footpath surfaces give a poor impression of the town and detract from the other well presented aspects such as the many good buildings (public, commercial and private).

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The presentation of houses and housing estates is one of the better features of Athboy.

Most of the estates have well maintained grassed areas with trees and shrubs. Castle Lawn and St. Josephs stand out. The trees as they grow will impact more and more on the extensive grassed areas of Meadowlands and further planting should even be possible.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Much more could be done under this heading. For example there are extensive stretches of very weedy footpaths throughout Athboy and this detracts considerably from the appearance of the town. Extensive renovation is also required on footpath surfaces and kerbing. Road surfaces are also poor in many parts of the town.. A higher standard of maintenance of grass margins on most approaches is required. Long grass and nettles are particularly unsightly on the Dunderry Road. The neatly cut grass and trees in front of the houses opposite St. James' Vocational School and in some other locations show what can be done. Most of the public seating throughout the town requires painting as do many of the directional signs.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

A lot of work has to be done to bring Athboy up to standard. Improved litter control, better road and footpath surfaces and more regular cutting of grass verges on many approach roads would make a big difference.