

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NAVAN**
County : **MEATH**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	26	27
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	202	203

Navan, County Meath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Navan is a prosperous and growing county town and its appearance reflects the many changes that have taken place and that are in hand. The town is still in transition and it will take several years before things settle down. However an attractive blue-print is emerging. The presentation of the main street and other buildings in the town centre is a highlight and the objective should be to bring the rest of the town up to a similar standard. There is still much work to be done and attention to detail is often lacking. Your work programme as outlined in your entry form especially the many colourful hanging baskets and flower tubs throughout the town make a significant contribution to the appearance of Navan. Your efforts to tackle litter were also noted but have not yet been successful as the town still has a major litter problem. Your detailed map marking the various locations where landscaping work was carried out was helpful.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As has been mentioned the town centre especially the Main Street has been transformed. The many attractive shop fronts and the generally restrained signage are praiseworthy and the stone buildings add interest. The overall effect is complemented by the street lighting, the absence of overhead wires and the well planted and colourful hanging baskets. However there are still many unsuitable shop fronts and name signs in other parts of the town, e.g. The Beechmount Shopping Centre and there are examples in other locations. The public buildings throughout the town are well kept - Churches, Schools, Local Authority buildings, Hospital, etc.

LANDSCAPING

The many flower tubs and hanging baskets in the town centre, in housing estates and at road junctions have already been commented upon and add colour and interest. The sponsored and well planted roundabouts are praiseworthy. The lengthy stretch of shrub roses on the Relief Road is another good feature. The river and the framework of mature trees contribute greatly to the attractiveness of the Dublin approach. The stone bridges especially the railway bridge adds considerably to the overall impact. The large blue sculpture with its well maintained grass and shrubs is another feature on the Dublin approach and the sculpture at the Fire Station is also commendable. The Credit Union building with its

landscaping is again singled out for special mention. The water feature at the Credit Union with its leaping salmon is especially appropriate for Navan and the Boyne. The landscaping at the Church in the main street is also of a high order. The landscaping at Quinnsworth, Penneys and An Post considerably enhances this area, however, planting of well protected trees at the large car park on opposite side of road to Quinnsworth and Penneys would in time greatly improve this area. The parking area at the Beechmount Shopping area and Hotel needs considerable upgrading. The block boundary walls of the G.A.A. grounds are unattractive. Suitable planting in the area between the outer and inner walls would greatly enhance its appearance.

LITTER CONTROL

Navan has a serious litter problem. While the main street is reasonably litter free, considerably quantities of litter are visible in other parts of the town, e.g. large car-park opposite Quinnsworth and on most of the approach roads. An on-going anti-litter drive must be a priority.

TIDINESS

The presentation of buildings, new footpaths, absence of wire-scape etc. in the town centre helps generate a tidy atmosphere. Litter, the very poor quality of many roads and inadequately maintained grass verges are negative factors.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river is the principal natural amenity and wildlife habitat in the town. Much more use should be made of the river as an amenity area. Access to the water appears to be quite restricted and the provision of a waterside park and walkway should feature more prominently in future plans.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are many well presented houses and gardens throughout Navan. New housing schemes are being built on most of the approach roads. Several of these estates do not yet appear to have name signs which makes identification difficult. There are many well presented houses and gardens throughout Navan. The mature trees at the entrance to the housing estate opposite the Statoil Petrol Station on the Duleek Road are most attractive as are the trees at Beechmount. Trees and closely cut grass in front of the houses on top of the hill on the Slane road look well.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The major developments that are taking place throughout

Navan have resulted in considerable pipe laying and this and other work has had a detrimental effect on the quality of the road surfaces. The Dublin/Cavan road is the most attractive with its mature trees, well maintained grass margins, seating and views of the river, etc. The surfaces of the Athboy and Duleek roads are particularly bad but other approach roads are also in need of attention. Resurfacing of roads should be a priority once pipe laying etc. has been completed. The road works also meant that many of the footpaths and grass verges are in poor condition. Long weeds are especially unsightly on the Duleek road. A very weedy footpath was noted opposite the Crannac Factory. Weedy gravelled margins and parking areas were noted in several locations, e.g. Greyhound Track. The boundary wall of the Greyhound Track should also be painted. Several large advertising hoardings were noted throughout the town and should be removed.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Navan is a rapidly growing town with major traffic congestion. Your priority must be to try and bring the whole town up to the standard of the best parts. Concentrate on the basics, e.g. litter. Priority areas are litter, road surfaces and footpaths, verges and margins.