

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **SLANE**  
County : **MEATH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	33	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	28	29
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>219</b>

## **Slane, County Meath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Slane is a village with several attractive features, including the Castle grounds with its fine stone boundary walls, impressive entrances and mature trees, the river with its weir and the many well presented houses and business premises in the village, etc. However, a major problem is the growing volume of passing traffic with its continual din, especially from the heavy goods vehicles as they labour up the hill. Your work programme as outlined in your entry form and your three year plan is testament to the community's commitment to on going improvement. Your resolve to maintain the character of the village is commendable and hopefully any future housing developments will respect the scale of the village.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The standard of presentation of most of the business premises and houses in the village is good. The stone work of many of the buildings including the walls throughout adds considerably to the charm of Slane. The hotel and O'Neills are just some examples of well presented buildings and there are others. The signage is generally restrained and this also helps although there are still a number of inappropriate signs and fronts. The view of the Church of Ireland Steeple as you come down the hill into the village from the Drogheda road adds interest to the streetscape although the Church itself is beginning to deteriorate with vegetation noticeable on the roof. The Catholic Church, the school and the library are well maintained. The four houses in each corner of the cross roads are a focal point of the village, however the frontage of Rock House requires weeding.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The view of the river, the bridge and the village from the lay-by on the Dublin road together with impressive stonework, extensive well maintained grass margins, castle entrances and mature trees are the very essence of Slane and give it its picture postcard quality. The many well planted flower beds, hanging baskets, window boxes and flower tubs are commendable features and the several new plantings were noted. The all purple petunias in the hanging baskets at O'Neills and the red roses at the entrance to Castle Hill houses were particularly effective and there are also other praiseworthy examples. However a sense of scale is important. There are a number of flower beds and flower tubs which are too small to have any worthwhile impact on their surrounds.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The river with its picturesque weir is a wonderful amenity and should feature more in your plans. On the day of inspection it was lovely to see young people enjoying themselves in the river and water meadow. The river is also an important wildlife habitat as are the woodlands and surrounding countryside.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control is one of the weaker features of the village and the large volume of passing traffic is a contributory factor. A scattering of litter was present and indeed quite noticeable on stretches of the approach roads and in the village centre, in gaps and wind trap areas such as the Castle entrance on the Dublin road, in the rose bed at Castle Hill houses and in the parking area in front of the school. The village has a substantial number of litter bins which should help but you must maintain an ongoing and effective anti-litter drive.

## **TIDINESS**

The high overall standard of presentation of the village, the approach roads, etc. generates a tidy and well cared for atmosphere. Negative aspects are several weedy gravelled parking areas and litter.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Most of the houses in the village are well presented and several have colourful gardens. The new houses on the Collon Road are very attractive with their stone walls and landscaped surrounds. The grounds of the other housing estates such as Castle Hill and Abbeylands are landscaped and well kept. Several of the public seats need painting.

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

As has already been mentioned the approach roads are well maintained with attractive amenity facilities as on the Dublin road, at the bridge and on the hill overlooking the village. Well trimmed grassed verges and hedges, flower beds and shrubberies and trees are features on all four approaches. However there are several weedy gravelled margins such as the parking bay in front of the houses on the main Navan road and weeds are present on the footpath kerbing approaching the 30 m.p.h. sign on the Navan road, in parking areas in Castle Hill Estate and also in a number of other gap areas. New footpaths in the village centre contribute to the overall standard of presentation.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Slane continues to improve. Attention to detail, e.g. weeding and litter are still priorities.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (13/08/99)**

The Collon approach has been dramatically improved since this adjudicator was last in Slane. The vacant site at the seemingly neglected 30MPH sign is one of the few remaining problem areas. The lush green of new verges was admired. The shrub and tree planting in recent times is beginning to pay dividends. Weeds were less of a problem this time but litter was still quite apparent. It was a pity to see at least one commercial building disfigured with gaudy window stickers. The area behind the public toilets has considerable potential. The Drogheda approach was enjoyed for its relatively unspoilt, mature quality.