

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **INNISKEEN**
County : **MONAGHAN**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	31	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	25	26
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	203	199

Inniskeen, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed questionnaire and map, they were helpful. As part of this section of the competition you are requested to include a proposed long-term work programme for the village. A clear and concise 3/5-year plan, outlining achievable targets for the committee, will help focus your work in the future, and it also helps the adjudicator to measure your progress. It is good to see that you are including the local children in an aspect of the competition, perhaps if you publicised some aspects of your preparation for the competition within the community, it might generate some interest and appreciation of the work you are doing, which is really for the benefit of the whole village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Inniskeen with its unique literary heritage has many fine features within its environment. Many of the commercial and public premises in the village, were well presented and maintained. The R.C. Church and grounds looked particularly well with some lovely landscaping features on the approach into the village. The G.A.A. grounds looked tidy with its fresh paint work, it will look particularly well when its fully finished. Jane Park is a lovely feature in the village and nicely maintained. The old garage beside Duffy's Shop still looks untidy as did the yard adjoining The Hut opposite, although the stone landscape feature beside it detracted the eye away from the offending sites. The Credit Union caught the eye again with its attractive landscaping features. Patrick Kavanagh Resource Centre, The Community Centre, School, Round Tower and Church Yard, and Coffee Shop, were all looking well on the day of adjudication. Mc Nellos Pub is a lovely imposing stone building with a very attractive presentation at the roundabout. Ruddy's looked well with some attractive flower features, and the tidy derelict house at the Railway Bridge was noted. Mc Gee's Pub, and adjoining building with its attractive lamps and bollards also looked well, it is a pity to see the other business premises closed. A planning permission notice was noted on the gate in to the railway premises that has so much potential, hopefully this area will be suitably redeveloped.

There are some lovely new and old stone walls in the village, and a very unusual section of wall was noted opposite the Community Centre, with vertical stone rows similar to those in the West of Ireland.

LANDSCAPING

Once again, some nice landscaping features, freshly painted street furnishings, attractive window boxes, tubs, and hanging baskets were evident, providing a lovely splash of colour to the whole village. Also the landscape features, bi-lingual welcome signs, and trees on the approach roads were attractively presented. The area around the Grotto looks particularly well, a lot of hard work, well done. The flower bed opposite the Church and the area opposite the Patrick Kavanagh Centre also had some attractive and colourful flowers and perennial shrubs, and added a touch of colour to the area, as did the lovely roundabout bed and many other flower beds in and around the village. The lovely amenity area by the river is a great asset, and was looking well, the nasturtiums on the walls at the Church Yard were also noted again. Some nice flowers, trees, stone walls and tidy lawns at the Railway Bridge look well. The seat in Dun Ard, and a Picnic Table in the Park needs some repairs. Your careful choice and mix of trees to include native trees is praiseworthy as is your mixture of seasonal planting and perennial shrubs and plants that provide a good mix of colour and content to last the whole year round.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Tidy Towns Committee have an important role in preserving and suitably enhancing the natural environment within their community. The river side park is the obvious choice for suitable development in this category, with its abundance of bird life, trees and clean accessible river bank. If the wild grass and nettles area's in this park are difficult to maintain as in the area at the far gate close to the small bridge, suitably "convert" these areas in to wildflower/meadows areas. There are also other opportunities for enhancing and conserving wildlife habitats and the environment within the village. Wild flower meadows`/grass areas, nesting boxes, pond/water features, trees and hedgerows offer additional opportunities. The local children and their school and grounds are an option for developing some of these opportunities. When choosing appropriate signs for projects ensure the enhance rather than detract from the environment you are promoting and preserving. Work in conjunction with relevant local bodies, ENFO, or a local wildlife expert to develop this area.

LITTER CONTROL

On the day of adjudication, there was some litter in the village in almost the same places as last year, at the Resource Centre Grave Yard steps on to the road, at the back of the Community Centre and there was also debris in the river beside the bridge at the Round Tower. The new "Keep Inniskeen Tidy Signs" looks very well, and last years point about additional litter bins in busy areas still applies. It

is good to note that you are getting the local Children involved in this important aspect of the competition. A Litter Awareness Project in the community and school, and well maintained/sited bins all contribute to this area of the competition. The Committee and community must remain vigilant in this important area.

TIDINESS

The overall impression of the village was one of general tidiness. However there are some premises and areas that detract from the overall picture, some which are already mentioned in another section of this report. The open ditch and unsightly farm buildings opposite the Community Centre remain very unsightly. This is possibly the busiest stretch of road in the village, with many visitors going to the Patrick Kavanagh Centre, and it needs to be addressed, as it is losing Inniskeen marks every year in this section of the competition. It is important that all areas of the village are appropriately maintained and kept tidy and litter/weed free. This includes forecourts, back yards, kerb edges, all open spaces, and areas between properties. Back alleys/yards, should be appropriately screened particularly in areas that will attract rubbish or dumping.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many of houses throughout the town and on the approach roads, were generally well presented. The attractive hedges, lawns and colourful flowers in some individual gardens were noted, as were some attractive tubs, window boxes, and hanging baskets, in some of the village homes. However the nicely maintained homes highlight those that need attention or require their paint work refreshed both in the village, the housing developments and on the approach roads. Deery Park, and Dun Ard, public areas looked well, with tidy grass and landscaping. The lovely pump and surrounding area looks really well this year, and is a attractive feature. A very attractive garden was also noted behind a house adjoining the bridge.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads are the first impression of any town and require particular attention for this reason. Attractive signage, nicely faced hedges and tidy verges that did not compromise the flora and fauna were noted on all the approach roads. The road surface's were generally good, although some small areas need attention. The stone walls and roundabout are well done, and some good footpaths were noted in the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The small Tidy Towns Committee of Inniskeen are still working hard to enhance their unique village and its environment. Do persevere with your attempts to develop partnerships with local bodies. A small publicity campaign, presenting this report in a public place or a fund raising event may raise the profile of the committee in the village. Once again, try to involve the community and local organisations when drafting your future work programme. Your efforts to date remain a good advertisement to the rest of the community, keep up the good work.