

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CADAMSTOWN**
County : **OFFALY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	27	29
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	32	30
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	22
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	207	206

Cadamstown, County Offaly

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the three to five year Development Plan. It has obviously been followed and the maintenance programme associated with it is quite thorough. The photographs that have been submitted are very helpful in seeing the village at a different time of the year and thus allowing a better appreciation for the efforts. The form is very well filled out and identifies very clearly what is being carried out in 1999; it is good to see so many people involved in the whole process of working on the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Post Office is pleasant as are the other buildings in the village. Cadamstown has few buildings and relies more on the surrounding environment and outdoor works such as walls and other external features. It is in this area that the village is carrying out effective new works. The new wall on the exit road to Tullamore was in the process of being dismantled and re-built and looks very well. There are very good signs with good information and these are presented to a high standard. The new benches installed are quite different from those in other amenity spaces and a pleasure to see. The upkeep of all the fencing is to a high standard.

LANDSCAPING

The picnic areas are a definite major amenity and are obviously used by many visitors to the village. The floral displays are very colourful and reinforce a rural character. It must be questioned why there are isolated stone planters in the middle of the grassed areas as the focus seems to be on their placement rather than the overall landscape setting of the open space. The recent addition of stone plaques is in sympathy with the landscape setting.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The nature walk is very well presented and has a high level of maintenance associated with it. There are lush hedges surrounding the village and these have been left in the natural pattern of growth rather than having high maintenance and manicured appearance. It is important to highlight within the Development Plan how wildlife is being approached and whether it has a place in the management of the landscaped spaces.

LITTER CONTROL

There are very few sources in this village for litter and as such any litter that appears would be visually quite significant. This was not the case on the adjudication day and all residents must be complimented given the fact that the village must have quite a number of visitors to it.

TIDINESS

The derelict car at the junction does no favours to the excellent work that is carried out throughout the village. The area beside the River View Inn is in need of some improvement as there is no definition between the public road and the car parking spaces and the type of bollard design is visually not the most attractive. However, overall the village is very tidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The village does not have a large residential area as might be found with other villages of this size. However all properties are very well maintained and further enhance the character of the village.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There is a lack of definition between the roads and adjacent housing in the village centre. This makes the road in the centre of the village quite large and perhaps a roadside edge would define the road better and improve the visual character of the village. The road to Ballyboy has very lush hedges and reinforces the contrast between the surrounding countryside and the built environment.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is a very strong committed effort in presenting this village as an amenity for all visitors. It is the sense of unity and strong use of landscaping that provides this village with its own distinctive identity.