

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **FERBANE**  
County : **OFFALY**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	25
The Built Environment	40	27	24
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	25	23
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>174</b>

## **Ferbane, County Offaly**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The entry form was well completed and the support map information clearly laid out; present and future aspirations of works to be carried out in the town were outlined though no three to five year development plan has been submitted; the entry form could easily be extended to enhance such a document. The maps are very helpful in indicating strategic areas for adjudication and all information clearly demonstrated a very good working relationship with all organisations and agencies. An issue that could be tackled in the Development Plan will be the need for a colour plan for the main street so as to integrate the very long collection of buildings. Another issue would be to have a more active policy of disabled access such as the need for dropped curbs and a safer environment for pedestrians.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Last year's adjudication provided a very detailed commentary on the built environment that would match many of the observations of this year. The new walls recently built looked very well and are beginning to set a theme for integrating the many spaces along the main street. It should be noted that the main street needs an element of uplift in presentation to make the space more dynamic and a colour plan for the main street could be one way in which this issue could be explored.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The hanging baskets provide a good theme and connect very well with the bridge. The landscape at Gallin looks very well and the car park is very presentable. One awaits the outcome of the centre piece proposed in the new town park as there is a great opportunity to provide a really good urban facility. The recently installed iron seats are a good contribution to further enhancing the public spaces. Planting trees along the main street has been noted and this will have long term benefit for the village. The residents must be complimented on the individual efforts in integrating the gardens and public spaces with new plantings.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Its not known what direction the village will take on this particular category as no information was provided; however, it is noted that there are a very great number of foreign plant species used throughout the village. The use of cupressus and variegated poplar should be reconsidered as these plants do not really fit in with the rural setting of such villages and perhaps some collective thoughts on how wildlife would be

approached might set a theme for the use of plants within the village area.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There are lots of litter bins and they are very easily seen; some were full on the day of adjudication but in general they are all very well used. The management programme is obviously working well, but litter was evident.

## **TIDINESS**

This category has a mixed approach and refers to the general impression of an environment rather than the litter free aspect of it. As such gutter areas and curb areas should be better maintained, in some areas the curbs had some litter which added to an untidy character for only a few selected areas but in general the effort is very good and the more diligent approach will improve marks in this category. The recycling area could be better screened as it is quite visually prominent.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Gallen Priory was very colourful but the back areas deserve more attention. Delvin Park has a very good entrance and the new seat presents a very welcoming image. St. Cynocs is very well kept.

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

The Tullamore entry road has a good new planting scheme, but maintenance could become a problem in future years; therefore, use a greater number of shrubs; some plantings are inclined to hide the sign. Entering from the Ballycumber road needs the Flaherty sign relocated so that the entry sign into the town is not obscured. In some areas the roads lack definition such as around the library but plantings at the library are very colourful. The road to Athlone has a very fine collection of roadside trees. Glenavar Row looked very well with all the new young standards maturing very finely. Belmont Road is a very pleasant road to drive on and sets a very good theme for the village. The well trimmed hedges and the roses in the garden add a very good colour along with the significant contribution that private gardens make to the mature setting of the village.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The village looked very well on the day of adjudication and many of the recent efforts for environmental improvements will have significant long term benefits to the overall village.