

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TUBBER**
County : **OFFALY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	30
The Built Environment	40	24	23
Landscaping	40	29	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	14	12
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	203	190

Tubber, County Offaly

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The development plan submitted by the Tubber Development Association for 1999 to 2000 is an excellent document and very informative on all the issues that are effecting the village. The use of separate maps to highlight particular task of work was very helpful in adjudicating and sends a very clear message that goals and objectives are known. The document allows for very clear identification of issues that need support from outside bodies and given the significant amount of work that is being carried out in the village at present it is obvious that the authors have used the document to persuade many people to contribute to a very successful works programme. There is a very good balance between the social and physical aspirations in the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is very little building in the village in comparison to other urban centres; the church is the dominant building and the church and school should be thought of as a combined unit and treated as such. The car park in front of the church is very large and perhaps pulling back the car park from the barrier would allow space to provide a hedge between the main road and car parking area.

LANDSCAPING

A great effort has been made and must be complimented on works to the Clara road. There is a significant amount of wall climbing plants used in various areas around the village that will definitely bring a long term improvement. The GAA grounds must be complimented in the effort taken to the treatment of their walls; however, it is noted that perhaps they should also consider planting some trees on the inside portion of the wall. In some respects there are perhaps too many tubs with plants and greater emphasis should possibly be placed on growing plants within the ground. This would reduce the extent of maintenance and would put an emphasis on the selection of more durable planting schemes so that there will be a long term benefit from such efforts.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There are very few indigenous species being used in selected planting areas and perhaps an overuse of too many annual flowers and mown grass all of which gives the village, a strong urban quality that conflicts with the rural character that surrounds the whole village. Consideration should be given to a change in management techniques for such areas and this could establish a wildlife component.

LITTER CONTROL

There are few sources of litter and therefore there is good control of litter overall.

TIDINESS

The village is very tidy; however, its appearance is dominated by the use of tarmac; the church suffers from too much tarmac surrounding it and this really should be reduced as it does take away from the setting of the church. It is noted that the efforts of the village took account of the comments from the adjudicator of last year such as the changing of the colours for the pump and other items around the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses on the road to Moate are presented to a very high standard and planted with mature standards that are well cared for. The concrete fence could be improved in appearance with the installation of a hedge at the rear and though it is noted in the development plan the landscape treatment of the wire mesh fence should be followed up on with the recommended plantings. The rose hedge associated to the garden that won the award in 1995 was most spectacular and highlights one of those rare visual features that can sometimes be so unexpected but are charming.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The development of a theme marking the entrances into the town with wells is a very strong message and being carried out with very good presentation. All grass verges are well cut and the roads leading to the grave yard from the village are very pleasant and have a very pleasant rural character. The grave yard is very well presented and maintained, it could be improved with trees planted behind the wall.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village show a very strong desire to present a character and identity with its managed programme. The improvements are very successful. It must be noted that the name Tubber is presented in three different formats of spelling and this can be slightly confusing for motorists trying to identify their routes. It may be a small point but perhaps the single format spelling of the village should be clarified with the National Roads Authority and some of the map manufacturers so there is consistency for the presentation of the village.