

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **STRATFORD-ON-SLANEY**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	220	217

Stratford on Slaney, County Wicklow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed entry form, together with the very helpful map and Development Plan 1999 - 2002. The adjudicator recognises that you have a small committee, yet there is evidence that there is a good co-ordination of efforts

made in the presentation of the village. It is good to see that your efforts in litter control are translated into a relatively neat and tidy village, and also the care and attention detailed in the presentation in some areas, particularly landscaped areas.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

In terms of progress, the adjudicator noted a good presentation this year. The village square by the pub was well maintained. Try to paint the nameplate of the Stratford Arms. School grounds are very well maintained. The Post Office was freshly painted. The Church grounds were very well presented, well done. Try to perhaps paint the Church. The area opposite the Church could also be tidied up, as could the road leading to the mass path. The adjudicator noted your comments here. The school was freshly painted, well done. Overall, the small size of the village and the high standard achieved in the competition to date really places an onus on you to ensure that every single building is immaculately presented to its best advantage.

LANDSCAPING

Flower planting in the village square was magnificent again this year. The area is beautifully maintained and the grassed areas were neatly cut. This is something that you should be very proud of. It's an area that, on the day of adjudication, two elderly gentlemen sitting on the seat could relax and enjoy the beauty of a well cared area. The Beech hedge of the Church grounds was also noted, well done. Another landscaped area was noted down by the telephone kiosk. Good to see landscaping around the school area as well. Generally, all grassed areas, were very well cared for, very well done.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is encouraging to see that you are conscious of the wildlife in your area and the fact that you are aware of the importance of the mature trees and hedge rows for nesting was noted. It is encouraging to see that you are promoting development and study of wildlife within the school. Good luck to the school in joining the Green Schools programme;

You could look at the options of planting additional native species of trees, which can pay dividends in years to come.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control was very good and this year you obviously have this category under control. However, minor sprinklings were noted at the corner by the school. It gives an indication that you need to maintain the vigilance of on an ongoing basis.

TIDINESS

It's a pity the wire cabling is not completed. The adjudicator could not locate the recycling facilities as outlined in your application. There is a very neat and tidy appearance generally as one enters the village; however, weeds outside the community centre were evident, try to work on this. Try also to paint the sign and replace the litter bins outside the residential terrace as they give a somewhat untidy appearance.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Excellent individual efforts were noted particularly on the approach road from Grangecon and along the main street generally, are well maintained. Try to put curbing in the grassed areas outside the residential areas. Generally, though good individual efforts were noted throughout, well done.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach road from Grangecon an excellent individual residential efforts were noted which helps to improve the appearance of this road on this approach. Grass verges needed to be cut; however, the mature trees will help to improve the appearance on this approach road. However, you might partially clear the walls, to give a neater tidier appearance. Shubbery has obviously been shaded by the growing trees which might suggest that problems lie ahead, in terms of allowing for the need for shade tolerant plants. Also, the adjudicator noted different Irish names for Stratford on Slaney, for example, Ait na Straide. Why different names and what is the significance of them? On the southerly approach from the N81, the area is generally well maintained. Along the main street, some areas might benefit from curbing where grass meets the road, try to work on this.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The adjudicator was impressed with his visit to Stratford this

year as it is a good example to show how individual and combined efforts co-exist. There is attention to detail which you should be proud of. The small size of the village is both an advantage and disadvantage; an advantage because, it should be easy to overcome problems that may exist or become visible; a disadvantage because your attempt to develop large scaled projects such as the Old School House as a Heritage Centre may not be realistic in the short term. However that should not prevent you from seeking to ensure that the heritage and attractiveness of this village is made as accessible to visitors. Good luck in your efforts to continue in the years to come.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/99)

At second adjudication the village continued to have a really well cared for air with great pride evident by the residents. The many well mown grassed areas must take considerable time to keep and are a tribute to care and attention. Maybe some more of these small greens could accommodate a tree to compliment the existing trees in the village and surrounds. The grass in the school was looking a little less cared for today. Some litter on the Mass path and the untidy approach is unhelpful. Improvements to the roadside grass verges at the housing scheme on the Hill or Grangecon road would be welcome.