

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **VIRGINIA**
County : **CAVAN**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	209	206

Virginia, Co Cavan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Virginia is a town with many advantages in the National Tidy Towns Competition. The lovely approaches from Cavan and Ballyjamesduff are something which most towns would be envious of. The downside of this is, however, that it has problems which need assistance from the Local Authority, business people, and above all the residents of Virginia if they are to achieve their potential in this competition. A number of improvements have been carried out this year and are also planned for the future namely the big clean up and the proposed landscaping of the Bailieborough junction. The future looks bright for Virginia.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Many of the commercial buildings were extremely well presented. The small stone buildings, terraced or otherwise are a lovely feature under this heading. Two new stone buildings on the left hand side of the Main Street are excellent and blend in nicely with the streetscape. Other buildings of note were Sharkey's Hotel, Lough Ramor Hotel, Matthews, Chestnut Tree, Sín Éile (nice traditional sign), Arnold's and Medical Hall and O'Donoghue's Pharmacy. Public buildings were not to be outdone and the Church of Ireland, Catholic Church, the new theatre, schools, Credit Union buildings and the National Irish Bank were all presented to a very high standard. The stone mill near the bridge on the Dublin Road which has been converted to residential accommodation is a treat for the eye of the beholder. Beautifully restored. New footpath and railings also looked well. Well done to the Committee on having the old hall demolished near Pottle Lane. Good luck with your future plans.

LANDSCAPING

Some lovely floral displays in the town centre at the junction of the Cavan Road and Longford Road. Some excellent tree planting on the approach roads and some lovely stone walls. (some of which need attention). Nice flower beds at the Park Hotel entrance and at the Virginia signs on the approaches. The Pergeloa Plant Centre is very colourful and worthy of comment. The hanging baskets, flower tubs and window boxes throughout the town are a credit to all concerned - lovely ambience. The Church of Ireland with its nice mature trees is ruined somewhat by the litter scattered about the grounds particularly near the town centre. The completion of the landscaping project should be of great

help to your Tidy Towns effort for next year (well done!).
Remarks noted re/landscaping near Vocational School.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As suggested in last year's report Lough Ramor is an asset which could be used as an environmental starting point under this heading. The amenity at the lake shore looks very attractive with its seating - very colourful and the clean up has had a wonderful effect on this area (well done!). The new wall on the approach to Lough Ramor will be a great addition to this area. A small bird sanctuary is situated to the left of the school, primarily for rearing partridges and pheasant. You should consult the owners of this property with regard to a wild life sanctuary. Nice shrubbery beds were noticed at the small harbour. Another area that could be considered is the river near the bridge. A number of ducks were cavorting in the waters and a heron was also spotted. A riverside walk in this area could be part of the development at Pottle Lane. We look forward to developments under this heading.

LITTER CONTROL

The town was virtually free of litter on adjudication day. A magnificent clean up has taken place in the vicinity of the school and amenity park at Lough Ramor. A lot of litter was visible in the showgrounds. A lot of litter to be seen in the grounds of the Church of Ireland. Lots of litter at Pottle Lane and some of the approach roads. Make sure that the river bed is kept clean. If you want to improve your ranking in the competition all litter should be banished from Virginia. It is up to you.

TIDINESS

Virginia appears to be a tidy town and it has a lot going for it. Certainly it has problems, none of which are insurmountable. Well done regarding the rear of the garage in the Main Street. It might be an idea to screen the front of it in the future. The right hand side of the footpath opposite Sharkey's Hotel needs attention (most uneven). The roadway to Lough Ramor is being repaired and a new wall being constructed and this augurs well for the future. Some stone walls on the approaches are in need of repair. The approach alongside the river to the Eastern Regional Fisheries Board approach is very untidy. Nice flower beds at the National School on the Bailieborough Road.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many of the houses particularly on the approach roads are extremely well presented. Many superb gardens with wonderful floral displays, manicured lawns and well maintained boundary walls. Some of the Estates have a

nice standard of presentation notably Yew Park on the Dublin Road and Lake View. The stone cottages and stone buildings as last year are worthy of special mention. This adjudicator was impressed by the overall appearance of the town under this heading.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All of the approach roads were reasonably well presented. Verges had been trimmed and the stone walls on many of the approaches really help to set off Virginia. Some stone walls, however, need attention as already mentioned. The stone wall on the access road to Lough Ramor will be a helpful addition in the future. Treeplanting on the approaches is to be commended. The presentation of the R.C. Church School on the Bailieborough Road is worthy of mention. The new theatre is excellent.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A good effort by the Tidy Towns Committee and the residents of Virginia this year. Things are slowly coming together and we look forward to the future. Well done! Keep up the good work.