

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **NURNEY**  
County : **CARLOW**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 14-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	--
The Built Environment	40	24	--
Landscaping	40	24	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	--
Litter Control	40	25	--
Tidiness	20	12	--
Residential Areas	30	18	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	--
General Impression	10	6	--
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>--</b>

## **Nurney, County Carlow**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Welcome to the Tidy Towns Competition and hopefully it will be the first of many years in which your village will be involved. Thank you for your application form and map of the village which was most helpful on the day of adjudication. All Tidy Towns Committees are now required to produce a plan which will guide its activities over the next three to five years. The plan should be a simple one of three to five pages and should set out clear objectives for each year covered. Much of the expertise will be found in your own committee and further advice in the wider local community. I note from your application form that you are in regular contact with the Carlow County Council which has excellent advice to offer. You might also liaise with FÁS, the Regional Tourism Authority, the ESB and Eircom all of which will have valuable advice in the preparation of the plan. Look on this plan as a guide for your committee and something which can be built upon in the coming years. Also, involve the school and its pupils in your activities. It is also important to involve the wider community and I note that you have a total membership of 47 which is to be commended.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The village is a small one and does not have many public buildings. The Church of Ireland is well presented; the gates painted and the grass neat. The school was very well presented. Shrub beds had a delightful selection of plants and were weed free. All the grass areas were cut and maintained in a neat condition. Perhaps you could discuss and decide on the appropriate use of materials and colour when next repainting the properties. The telephone booth does need to be repaired and painted. Your committee might also consider the possibility of bi-lingual signs.

### **LANDSCAPING**

A delightful job has been done to the embankment and thank you for the photograph which you submitted showing its appearance before landscaping. A lovely selection of plants and shrubs has been used and the large stones provide a nice contrast. This was a huge project to undertake in your first year and well done to all concerned. It would appear that the area under the children crossing sign at the Church of Ireland is also going to be planted. Across the road there are lovely mature trees which enhance the entrance to the village. The junction of the road leading to the school has also been newly planted. Perhaps the committee might look at other areas where trees could be planted. Trees are the most important plants

in your village's landscape, however, do get advice when deciding on new planting of trees. Some planting might be done across the road from the embankment. The open spaces throughout are all well maintained.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

It is important to work on this part of the competition over the next year. It is not as difficult as it seems and you have an important role to play in protecting and increasing the wildlife in your community. Wildlife habitats exist on the outskirts of your village in the hedgerows and grass verges on the approach roads. Another area which should be explored is the graveyard. One could start by identifying the wildlife habitats which exist there. If you need help in getting this project off the ground, do talk to somebody in your community who has some expertise. Perhaps a nature trail could be developed which would be enjoyable for all the community. Properly managed natural areas will add to your village.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There were some small pieces of litter in the newly set green area on the Newtown Road and some small pieces near the trees across from the church. You will need to have arrangements in place for the prevention and control of litter on an ongoing basis. Enrol your local school in helping you to keep litter to a minimum. The provision of litter bins is important and they need to be placed in suitable areas.

## **TIDINESS**

There was an absence of fly posting and graffiti throughout. Control of weed growth at kerbs and at the base of the walls and buildings was good. It is essential to keep this monitored and regular attention should be paid to it. Encourage individual property owners to look after this weed control.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The grass had been recently cut in the green space in front of the Hillview housing estate, but will need regular cutting to have it looking neat. The boundary walls of many of the houses do need attention. Most houses are well presented and perhaps more use could be made with window boxes and containers of flowers. Encourage other householders to come on board with you in making the village more attractive. It is important that the level of maintenance is good and that buildings used for storage, farm buildings, etc are presented well.

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

The signposts do need attention. They need to be cleaned and painted. Also, the grass around the signs needs to be cut and kept tidy at all times. The stone walls by the church and the wall on the left going towards the school are lovely features. Remove the sprayed grass and weeds from the wall going towards the school. All the approach roads were well maintained.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Your efforts this year have done much to improve your village. It is great to see that you have the support of the community. You took on the embankment project and are to be commended for doing an excellent job. No doubt you will go from strength to strength and again, I wish to remind you to start to prepare your plan for the remainder of this year and next year. Well done to all concerned and one does look forward to visiting Nurney in the years ahead.