

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **OLD LEIGHLIN**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	29
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	28	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	18	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	21
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	188	176

Old Leighlin, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your update on the plan, map of your village, photographs and the plan for the Healing Garden. All were most helpful to the adjudicator on the day. You are a very focused committee and you have done very well with your fundraising. It is good to see the number of items completed and your plans for this year. Your programme of activities is continuing to meet the objectives of the plan.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The village is dominated by St Lazerian's Cathedral and graveyard. The graveyard and the area around the church is very well maintained. The business properties in the village are reasonably well maintained, but perhaps better use could be made of the colours in which they are painted. Perhaps some local colour expert might be able to help you with this. Also, some of the large paint manufacturers offer advice in this area. The old tractor, perhaps, would need to be removed from the side of the garage. The entrance from the housing estate to the GAA pitch needs to be improved. The weeds by the boundary wall going towards the pitch gate have been sprayed. I would suggest that some type of shrubs or trees be sown at the base of this wall. The entrance gate to the pitch did look very well. The school and its grounds were well presented. Trees and shrubs have matured.

LANDSCAPING

The picnic area has been completed to a very good standard. It does enhance this whole area. This has been a very worthwhile project. The grass needs to be trimmed at the verges, kerbs and steps. The grass also needs to be cut at the railings on both sides. The entrance gates are lovely and were well maintained. Fill in any boundary gaps with whitethorn hedging, or similar. The Healing Garden which has been just planted is an unusual and a delightful idea. A nice selection of plants has been used and should do well in that particular spot.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

I note from your application form that you are working on a project for the wooded areas. The picnic and holy well area have huge possibilities. You have hedgerows and the trees in this area which offer many opportunities for wildlife. No doubt many wildlife habitats exist in this area. You will find this aspect of the competition very rewarding. Perhaps you might consider, in the future, producing a leaflet which list

the wildlife in your area and community.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control, overall, was good and I note that you have litter patrols at *Scoil Noafa Molaise*. The arrangements which you have put in place for the control of litter is working well. A few small pieces were observed. A litter bin would be necessary in the picnic car park area and perhaps, also, near the well.

TIDINESS

There was no fly posting or graffiti evident in the village. Control of weed growth at the kerbs and at the base of buildings and walls is very good. Encourage individual property owners to look after this area. I note from your plan that you are consulting with the local authority regarding the provision of recycling bins. Do consider the location of these bins carefully. They should be accessible to your local community, while remaining unobtrusive.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residential estate was very well maintained. The entrance was neat, the grass was cut and there was a lovely, new plant bed which had a good selection. These were well maintained. Some of the properties were very well presented and painted in lovely fresh colours. Perhaps some climbers or a hedge could be sown at the base of the wall to the right leading to the field. The new houses, when completed, should look very well. The stone walls enhance this area.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The stonewall at the entrance to the lane into St Lazerian's Well has been completed to a high standard. Also, the section of stone wall opposite the well looks lovely. The car park was in a clean and tidy condition but it is essential to keep the surface and kerbs free of weeds. Also, ensure that the boundary ditches are tidy. The signs are very good and in particular the lovely stone sign with a shrub bed near it on the Spa Road. Some resurfacing needs to be done in the centre of the village and especially outside the pub. I note that you are hoping to provide more lighting in the future.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You have made very good efforts to overcome some difficulties and have done a lot of work over the last few years to improve the presentation and appearance of your village. You are a hardworking committee and no doubt the

community appreciates the efforts made. There is a plan in place and this, no doubt, is helping and will help you very much in the future. Well done to all concerned.