

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **STEPASIDE**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	23	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	216	208

Stepaside, County Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Stepaside Tidy Towns Committee is quite a large one for a village of this size. You have obviously garnered a lot of community support, both private and commercial. It was particularly pleasing to note that you are encouraging new residents on to the committee. The Christmas card of the information board in the village centre was a clever and practical idea as it also raised funds for your cause. Progress has obviously been made over the last number of years and now it is time to plan for the future.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Public and commercial premises throughout the village were presented to a high standard. The Mountain View House looked very fresh in green – the young trees to the car park were coming along nicely. However, the flaky boundary wall at the entrance looked unfortunate. Kennedy's Post Office looked most fresh in yellow and sported your endeavour award medal from last year's competition. The Step Inn could be freshened up before next year's competition, as could the Garda station – the latter sported some attractive window boxes. The development of the graveyard and Celtic cross is a most welcome one as this area appeared quite isolated and almost neglected when last this adjudicator had the pleasure of visiting Stepside.

LANDSCAPING

The standard in this category of the competition was very high. The magnificent combination of hard and soft landscaping to Stepside Park with its defined areas to the front of the houses in brick paviers and lush grassy banks, was admired. Permanent planting and jaunty red hot poker extending as they did from the entrance area along and up the access road looked quite magnificent. The Stepside Golf Centre has been attractively landscaped with permanent planting. The steps adjacent to the Step Inn have been attractively detailed with stone flags and were greatly admired.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The stream area was filled with wild flowers on adjudication day and looked most pleasing. The information board notes areas of interest in the village both from a wildlife and archaeological point of view.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard in this category could have been higher on

adjudication day, particularly for a village as small as Stepside. A plastic bottle was noted on the Enniskerry Road. Litter was also evident in the stream area and by the bench and village pump opposite the Post Office where some faded graffiti was also evident to the adjacent gable.

TIDINESS

Some weeding was necessary at curbsides along approach roads. The oil barrel detracted greatly from the presentation of the Pound area. Do try to discourage fly posting, which was evident on the Kilgobbin Road, as it gives approach roads a quite cluttered appearance.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is a very high standard in this aspect of the competition. Generally, estates and individual houses were extremely well maintained. Some magnificent gardens along the Kilgobbin Road with their grassy banks extending to the roadside were admired – of particular note the cottage by the stream with its attractive display of flowers tumbling down to the grass verges. Stepside Park, as previously mentioned, was magnificently landscaped and the attractive new trees outside the estate were admired. Jamestown cottages looked quite quaint and their privacy is maintained by the boundary wall – we look forward to work to this area in the coming year.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Along the Dundrum Road the old village nameplate sign appeared to be quite scratched and needed a wash, however, the attractive new sign adjacent to the display of buttercups and new trees at the Pound was admired. Some weeding was necessary to the curbsides. The speed limit sign on the Enniskerry Road looked quite grubby and in need of a wash. The directional signs in the centre of the village were in very good condition and most fresh. Stepside Lane gives the visitor a magnificent view overlooking the city beyond – the junction sign on this road appeared quite grubby but it was noted from your application that work was ongoing by the Local Authority in this area, so hopefully this will be rectified in due time.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Stepside is an attractive village nestling as it does at the foot of the Dublin Mountains. This adjudicator was pleased to note the numerous improvements made since last visiting the village a number of years ago.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (04/08/00)

You are to be commended for your brave attempts to achieve wild flower areas such as the Bank as it will require

perseverance - nettles, thistles, dock and ragwort usually persist. Litter was less in evidence during our second visit. In general the village centre had a tidy appearance with a notable absence of kerbside weeds. On the other hand the effect of good grass cutting and cheerful paint colours in St. Patrick's Park was diminished somewhat by weedy kerbsides. Without taking away the natural quality of Stepside Lane some rough road edges could be attended to. Kilgobbin Lane is always an enjoyed part of Stepside; the roadside planting at the top is particularly successful. The expansive greens of Kilgobbin Heights were up to their usual standard; perhaps the wall with the sign at the entrance might be painted or planted with climbers. It is suggested that the Mountain View car park wall could be replaced with stone to avoid maintenance and complement that of Stepside Park.