

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **STRAFFAN**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	29
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	25	26
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	195	193

Straffan, County Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed application form and the clear map provided. The village of Straffan has tremendous character and has retained its village atmosphere. A development plan/ outline would help you to focus and be more strategic in your work over the next 3/5 years. Work throughout the village was evident and it was looking well on the day of adjudication.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There are a number of characterful buildings and residences in Straffan. The Church of Ireland on the corner looked well and the churchyard opposite had been cleared. The gates and the avenue up to the churchyard were most appealing. Walshs and O'Rourkes were simple in their approach. Keanes looked well with its dark green lettering on a cream background. Take care to ensure not too much clutter outside as this does take away from the shopfront. The Straffan Inn has similar lettering and looked freshly painted. The window boxes were admired though wooden boxes rather than green plastic would be more attractive. The Catholic Church looked well and was also simple in its structure. It had nicely painted railings and gates. The school on the Clane road was reasonable - it was tidy, however there was litter outside it and no bin in sight. The Community Centre is a bonus for the village - it was evident that work has been undertaken with the sand / building material noted outside. Cobbs is a fine example of how an industrial premise can be integrated into the village and the surrounding countryside.

LANDSCAPING

The hanging baskets were admired throughout the village and it was nice to see a sense of co-ordination and uniformity in the presentation of these. The wall flora on the wall opposite Keanes was admired, though the Cordylines do seem a little out of place in such a rural village. Incidental planting looks well and many of the gardens of private residences are a credit to the owners. The adjudicator would suggest that the silver pump is painted a more suitable colour such as dark green.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Wildlife is an important section and is often not addressed. It is a section that valuable marks can be gained particularly as you achieve higher marks in the competition. The trees

and stone walls are a feature of the village and the surrounding area. The river is also an important wildlife habitat. Perhaps in conjunction with the school an inventory of local trees could be drawn up. The K Club is also accessible and has some fine tree specimens and this could also be considered as the location for a tree trail.

LITTER CONTROL

Quite an amount of litter was evident in various places throughout the village. There was a reasonable amount of passing traffic and this may contribute to it as well as the Recent Golf Open. Litter was evident outside the school, beside the C of I. Church opposite Walshs and in a corner of the GAA grounds. In two of these places there were no litterbins - the School and the GAA grounds. The red litterbins look well along the Clane road though one nearly opposite Keanes needs repainting.

TIDINESS

Despite the litter in hidden corners, Straffan did look tidy on the afternoon of adjudication. There were however some weedy areas in the gutters at Coarsemoor, and around the community centre though this can be excused as work is being undertaken and is not complete. The uncut grassy areas on the Clane road did give an untidy air in this part of the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses on the Ardclough approach road are well presented but it is the cottages on the Butterfly Farm approach and in the centre of the village that gives the village its character. Straffan cottage has a wonderful cottage garden. Housing in the centre of the village was very well maintained. Coarsemoor was well presented and had a nice stone name sign, The small cul de sac of houses opposite had some lovely gardens. One in particular had a number of unusual sculptures which looked well. The pump in this cul de sac had a basket hanging from it which looked a bit inappropriate from a practical point of view.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach from Ardclough is wonderful. The landscaping and the presentation of the K Club looked very attractive. The new houses on the Celbridge approach will need to be completed before any judgement be made on this road. The Maynooth approach was fine - the old sign which looked well needed to be cleaned/painted. These signs are becoming increasingly rarer each year. The Clane road required cutting back in places though further out it was well attended to.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Straffan is a fine village and work is progressing steadily. Be more vigilant about the litter, prepare an action plan for the village and consider aspects of wildlife, both identification and management. The village has the potential to do well.