

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KNOCKBRIDGE**
County : **LOUTH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	41
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	28	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	29	28
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	28	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	238	232

Knockbridge, County Louth

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your detailed response to the application form and colour coded map. Your 3-year development plan is one of the most comprehensive and inclusive approaches to planning from a Tidy Towns Committee that this adjudicator has seen. The evaluation of your last 3-year plan is a very good exercise and highlights the large amount achieved to date and helps identify priority areas for the future. The brochures included are excellent, are these readily available in the village? The Stephenstown Pond/Agnes Burns Project is outstanding and we wish you every success with the new Burns Visitor Centre.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The buildings in the centre of the village are well presented. The fine new extension to the school was noted. The Health Board Office needs to be painted and McNamees sign freshened up. The Oriel Trail Map and tourist information point are conveniently sited in the church carpark. Provision of signage to highlight the beautiful Harry Clarke Window in the church would certainly be of value. The Agnes Burns Cottage, Tea Rooms and Playground at Stephenstown Pond are further valuable additions to this wonderful amenity. A visit to the Cottage will be eagerly anticipated for next year's adjudication. The new signpost to Cúchulainn's Stone was noted on the Dundalk Road. You might consider clearing the overgrowth from the information plaque and stile here, if the landowner is in agreement.

LANDSCAPING

You are making good progress with the very extensive tree planting programme at Stephenstown Pond and the Agnes Burns Cottage. The tree-sponsorship initiative is a marvellous idea. A large amount of work has been carried out here this year, which will add greatly to the beauty of this site over the coming years. The display around the old pump in the village is eye-catching, but some of the signs here need to be cleaned. The roses on McNamees Pub are as striking as ever. Planting appears to be a bit sparse in places on the landscaped banks on the Louth Village Road.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Stephenstown Pond is a superb amenity, teeming with wildlife and beautifully maintained. The seating and new picnic benches are nicely placed and it was a pleasure to

see the facility being enjoyed by people of all age groups on adjudication day. Your co-operative approach with the Gun Club and Trout Hatchery is another factor in assuring long term success. This will be a very impressive site indeed when the new facilities open and the recent planting becomes well established. It is hoped that the new wildlife signs on the approach road are effective, as quite a few ducks were out on the road on the day of my visit. Your plans to create a wildflower area in the village will be another valuable contribution under this heading.

LITTER CONTROL

Your measures for litter control appear to be effective. The new anti-litter signs on the approach roads are a very pro-active approach.

TIDINESS

Knockbridge is a tidy village in general. The new surface at the school and in front of the community centre creates a very tidy impression. The only weeds noted were along the kerb in front of the church. The entrance to Wolfe Tone Hall needs a general tidy up and upgrading of the surface at the front.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses in the village and along the approach roads are well maintained. Lisheen Park is well presented, but a few boundary walls need to be painted. Lisroland View looks like a fine development and it is encouraging to note that planting work has already begun at the entrance. The small new estate in the village centre is attractive. The residents should try to screen off the wire fence of the Granary as has been done along the front. Knockattin is again beautifully presented and a real credit to its residents.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The stylish sculpture pieces (not shown on your map) on two of the approach roads are a great way of marking the outer entrances to the Knockbridge area and of highlighting the strong Cúchulainn association. Landscaping at both locations would add to the appearance of the sites. There is no name sign for Knockbridge on the existing sign on the Carrickmacross Road, or on the Dundalk Road just as one leaves Dundalk. Approach roads are maintained in good condition, (the speed of some motorists coming into the village is frightening). A few potholes were noted at the carpark opposite the church and the entrance to the community centre would benefit from some attention to bring it up to the standard of the car park at the front.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Knockbridge is a charming village with a community that is committed and able to shape its own future. We look forward to the opening of the Agnes Burns Centre and the opportunity to visit Knockbridge again very soon.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (06/08/00)

Knockbridge was in full and colourful bloom during the August holiday weekend – an enviable place to be. It was good to see so many visitors at Stephenstown Pond – and respecting the site by keeping it litter-free too. This community does exceptionally well on its major projects – it is in small details that improvements could still be made; these are noted in the comments of the first round adjudicator and should be carefully considered. Your interesting suggestion about the farming community will be raised at the next meeting between the adjudicators and the officials of the Tidy Towns Unit. In response to your query about an example of a good annual application form with attached documentation, you may take it that yours is among the best!