

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TALLANSTOWN**
County : **LOUTH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	39
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	22
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	26	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	248	240

Tallanstown, County Louth

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your application form and the accompanying documentation. As noted last year, the village appraisal report is of immense value to the local community. You should use this report to form the basis of your next 3/5 year work plan. This would enable you to identify the projects to be undertaken each year and to highlight those completed with each years entry, building on the marvellous work carried out to date. The Tallanstown brochure was most informative and interesting.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The new and re-furbished stone walls and piers are a very distinctive feature of the village. The main buildings in the centre look very well apart from a few properties which need to paint their boundary walls. The Church, School and Community Centre are all presented to a high standard. Congratulations to the Louth Arms on achieving Bord Failte approval.

LANDSCAPING

The local community can be very proud of their achievement in developing a fine facility like Maguire Park. This is a superb amenity for the village, with well kept shrubs beds, new trees, attractive picnic benches and seating in the shadow of the impressive "Mount". We look forward to seeing it mature over the coming years. Floral displays all around the village, in the residential estates and on approach roads are quite stunning. The many wooden tub planters add further colour. The new beer garden at the back of the Louth Arms, with neatly mown grassed banks running down to the Glyde, is most pleasant, but the back area of the pub would benefit from a general tidy up.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The new signs to the Wildlife Sanctuary are helpful. The plan to provide an information board on the species to be found here would be a worthwhile addition and an enjoyable project for the local school children. The new Maguire Park and the Mount are important wildlife habitats, especially the uncut natural vegetation and maturing trees on the Mount. A riverside walk within the village would be a wonderful feature to allow people to enjoy the beautiful natural amenity of the Glyde and its banks. This is emphasised now more than ever, by the attractive setting of the new beer garden.

LITTER CONTROL

Your extremely pro-active approach to controlling litter from passing traffic is obviously working well. However, some litter was noted in back areas of the village. A small collection of sweet papers etc. had formed in the stream behind the wall at the little picnic area on the Ardee Road. Some pieces of litter and broken glass were also noted just inside the Wildlife Sanctuary and scattered around the beer garden beside the river.

TIDINESS

The good road and footpath surfaces and lack of kerbside weed contribute to a tidy appearance. As mentioned last year, the removal of overhead wires from the village centre would be of enormous benefit and should be investigated as a long term project.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential properties throughout Tallanstown and on the approach roads are maintained to a very high standard. There are many charming cottages with superb gardens. The estates are a credit to the residents with wonderful floral displays in their gardens and greens, making a very important contribution to the overall appearance of the village. A few properties do need to paint their boundary walls. The new stone estate name signs and colourful tubs of flowers are most attractive.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads are well presented with neat verges and attractive tree and shrub planting. The newly surfaced parking area in the centre of the village looks very neat and tidy. In comparison, Lennons carpark was looking a little weedy. The Louth Arms beer garden is a very pleasant development, but attention to the presentation of the area at the back of the pub is needed.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Tallanstown continues to delight. The hard work put in by this small community is really outstanding. Your continued success in the competition is richly deserved.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (06/08/00)

Tallanstown, during the August holiday weekend, was exactly as described on your application form, 'unique in the peace and quiet of its natural surroundings'. This adjudicator recalls the village a quarter century ago when

there was little remarkable about it; ten years ago when he started judging and the dozens of new trees were still very young the change was perceptible - now they are growing towards maturity, and the difference is extraordinarily impressive. This committee is definitely making the most of enhancing the natural attractions of village and surroundings. It is good to read that the Louth Arms is now recognised by Bord Failte, and it is hoped that more visitors will come to appreciate what has been achieved and use the centre as a relaxing touring base. In this regard, the improvements to the rear of the hotel perhaps need a greater sense of definition – is the terrace a place for sitting out, or is it a very tidy barrel store? On second adjudication-day the well laid out flowerbeds here were not as well kept as the stunningly beautiful plantings in the public areas of streets and estates – only a small point. There is nothing like success to increase the work of an already hard-worked community, yet the success in this spot certainly begs the creation of a riverside walk. The remarks made by the first adjudicator under 'General Impression' are warmly repeated by the second.