

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **GEASHILL**  
County : **OFFALY**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 14-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	30	32
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>230</b>

## **Geashill, County Offaly**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Geashill is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the third millennium. Thank you for your completed application and details of your short term work plan. We look forward with interest to the details of the community plan which is presently being put together. The Fair Green is a wonderful development and is being maintained beautifully, well done. Good luck with the planned Millennium Garden.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The majority of buildings are well presented. The school however could be painted to freshen its appearance. The small white building behind the water pump on the Portarlinton road continues to need attention. The Garda Station, Hamiltons and other buildings are being nicely maintained. The sign for the High Chaparral should be cleaned / refurbished if it is to remain in situ. Well done on the presentation of the Maxol garage. Both Carruthers and the gable wall of the building / outbuilding opposite are weather-stained and would benefit by cleaning or painting. The school on the Mount Mellick road looks well.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Landscaping at the grotto looks superb. Pairc Naoimh Mhuire is nicely landscaped to its roadside edge. It is good to note the under-planting of old trees along the Glebe walk, this will ensure a continuance of its recreational amenity value. We look forward to the redevelopment of the picnic area on the Portarlinton road and wish you success with the county council in this respect.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The wildlife value of the Glebe walk is very valuable. A suitable project might be to undertake a wildlife survey and identify the various habitats associated with the walk. There was no sign of the wild flower meadow out the Ballingar road during adjudication (noted in your application), perhaps the wild flowers were not in bloom.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control was not as good as in previous years. Some small scraps of litter were noted outside of Hamiltons. A few litter bins have seen better days, an example is one on a pole out the Ballingar road. A litter bin near the top of the Ballingar road was full to capacity which might explain the litter problem.

on this road. Litter and hay along the kerb from the Post Office to St. Olivers Estate was a problem in this section of the village also. The Glebe walk was quite littered with papers and wrappers from take away foods, water bottles, beer cans, sweet papers and so on. It is a pity that this excellent natural amenity is being despoiled.

## **TIDINESS**

Derelict buildings present a problem as you are no doubt aware. Could the one on the Ballingar road have its window apertures boarded up and kept brightly painted until redevelopment? The village needed a good sweep and the major problem is not litter but rather hay along the kerbs and on footpaths and this is particularly a feature of the Ballingar road. It is a pity that this excellent natural amenity is being despoiled.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

No doubt the new residential units on the Ballingar road will be presented to a very high standard, it is good to note that these are in keeping with the architectural character of the village. The stone houses opposite the pump are charming. There are many very pleasant gardens in Geashill.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The footpath outside of the Presbytery badly needs to be resurfaced. The nameplate should be replaced on the Mount Mellick road while the nameplate on the Ballingar road needs to be cleaned. The wall behind could be power hosed. Reference has already been made to roads and footpaths / kerbs being in need of a good sweeping.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The overall impression of Geashill is one of a very beautiful village. No doubt the litter problem will be brought back under control before next year's competition and indeed by the second adjudication for this year.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (10/08/00)**

It was disappointing to find litter throughout the village on the second adjudication day – though there was not as much as on the first, so that the recommended reduction of four marks could be reduced to two. Much of the litter was in front of houses – where of course it should not be dropped, but where also it should be only a minute's work on the part of each householder to pick it up. Otherwise, Geashill is maintaining its position well in the topmost grade of the Competition.