

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **HORSELEAP**  
County : **OFFALY**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 13-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	22	21
Landscaping	40	20	19
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	9	9
Litter Control	40	16	16
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	14	14
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	18
General Impression	10	4	4
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>136</b>

## **Horseleap, County Offaly**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

There is an excellent scenic view of the village and the banks of the stream from the Mullingar road. The monotony of the linear nature of the village along the main road is relieved substantially by the gentle curves of both the Mullingar and Clara approach roads. Thank you for your completed application. It is always useful to include a sketch map indicating the projects which have been achieved in the past year and which you wish to have judged for the competition. Your village is located on a national primary route and the problems that this presents in terms of managing your environment is appreciated by the judges. We wish you well in the achievements of your goals. Do send us in a list of projects accomplished each year together with a summary of what you want to achieve over the next three to five year period.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The church looks well, however some tree planting inside the boundary wall (in the carpark) would give a greater sense of enclosure and soften the visual impact of both the burial grounds and the carpark. Building materials were noted in the church carpark. Do keep us informed of work in progress. The walls behind the telephone kiosk are weather-stained and should be cleaned, painted or planted with a climbing plant. The school and its grounds look well. No doubt when the 'restaurant site' for sale is developed it will make a significant contribution to the built environment of Horseleap. Some walls at the top of the Mullingar road could be either planted or cleaned or painted. The Paddy Ryan premises looks well.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Flower and shrub displays looked well. It was a pity that the flower containers to the roadside of the private house beside the 'garden centre' had not been planted. The large green open space at the top of the Clara road is being nicely maintained and looks elegant in its simplicity. Ideally, the telegraph pole in the centre of it should be replaced with a more attractive feature and, of course, the service cables ducted. The wire and post fencing on the left hand side of the road on the Moate entrance to the village (just before the junction for the Mullingar road) could be planted with a combination of beech and hawthorn hedgerow and indeed the hedgerow along the wire and post fencing on the right could be better managed. The retaining stone walls to the gravel filled carpark at the top of the Clara road in the village centre could be planted with climbers.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The flowering hedgerow along some stretches of approach road are an attractive feature. The sporadic outbreaks of Oxeyedaisy along the western approach road to the village was very pleasing to the eye. The stream is a fine natural amenity and could be brought into the presentation of the village by either developing a small stretch of it for recreational amenity or promoting an awareness of its wildlife value.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control was quite good. Some litter had been uncovered along the newly cut verges and had not been removed. It was not a serious problem but one that should receive attention. Litter was also noted near the telephone kiosk. Control was weakest overall along verges on the Mullingar entrance to the village.

## **TIDINESS**

There were no major problems under this heading but a number of outbuildings and badly rusted roofs, etc. suggest neglect.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The vacant house located on the eastern side of the Garden Centre has some fine traditional features which, it is hoped, will be retained upon refurbishment. The garden of a house near the outer nameplate on the western end of the village was quite magnificent and acts as a nice introduction to the village from the Moate approach road. Some residential properties on the main road have yet to build / plant a retaining boundary to their roadside edge. There are also some magnificent gardens to residential properties on the Clara road.

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

Verges of approach roads to the village had been trimmed for adjudication day along their outer edges and looked quite well, however they might have looked better had the grass cuttings been removed. Some road signs are in need of refurbishment. The stone bridge on the Mullingar road looks well.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The overall impression of Horseleap is favourable. Perhaps your greatest area for amenity development is in the further landscaping of your village, a number of opportunities have been noted above. Given the existence of the Garden Centre

in your village, hopefully this will not present too great a problem.