

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **TUBBER**  
County : **OFFALY**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	28	24
Landscaping	40	32	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>203</b>

## **Tubber, County Offaly**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your application and your well thought out report and illustrated map. Your seasonal (Spring Time In Tubber) photographs were appreciated, it gave us a glimpse of Tubber outside of the competition season. Well done to the local farmer who has sponsored the planting of the beech hedgerow and, of course, congratulations on the sponsorship from the local garden centre who give generous discounts to the committee. Your list of objectives for the coming year are admirable and, of course, achievable as are your objectives covering the next five year period, particularly the development of waste ground as a picnic and wildlife area. Well done also on ensuring that new housing developments are both properly maintained and fit into the overall character of the village. Good luck with the new extension plan for the School and the Community Hall. There is obviously strong community commitment to the environment. This is evidenced both on the ground, in what has been achieved, and in the objectives of your development plan. It is good to note that school numbers are expected to rise by fifteen this year. Perhaps your wildlife project when it is started can involve the school children. Congratulations on the re-opening of the pub in December 1999 and the reinstatement of the traditional meeting place for the local community and neighbouring townland. There is obviously a clear understanding of the concept of development within the community as opposed to simply prettifying or landscaping. Have enquiries been made regarding the ducting of service cables and the removal of poles in the village? The wirescape is particularly noticeable at the school. Some public seating at strategic locations around the village would be welcome.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The 'Cat and Bagpipes' pub looks really well. The church is well appointed and can be seen from all major approach roads. It is a little weatherstained, are there plans to either clean or repaint it at any time in the future? The school and its boundary walls may need to be cleaned and / or painted soon as it is becoming a little weatherstained. Well done on the Community Hall, this looks wonderful and has been freshly whitewashed. The 'Cat and Bagpipes' not only looks well but has a wonderful old world traditional atmosphere with the pub and grocery shop combined, yet the pub itself is modern in that it is well laid out and finished to a high standard. The owners are to be congratulated.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Perhaps the field boundary from the well, (no. 13 on your map), to the church might also be planted with hedgerow or trees or a combination of both. The landscaped area at the pump is maturing nicely and the verges of the Clara road were much admired in the extent of landscaping and the successful combination of species chosen. The Pyracantha on the walls of the GAA ground must be lovely in May and Autumn. The beech hedging will give excellent winter colour. The rose displays built in to the new stretch of stone wall are a nice touch.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The area that you note for a small wildlife development is currently a pleasant mix of wildflower and grasses, a project for next year's competition might simply be to do a species count and identify the various flora here. This could perhaps be done in conjunction with the school children. The graveyard is neatly presented.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Your litter control activities are obviously successful as litter control was excellent during adjudication.

## **TIDINESS**

There are no major problems under this heading, just ensure that all building materials are completely removed when construction work has ceased.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There are excellent examples of well maintained residential properties in the village, many were admired, in particular one at the top of the Kilroylan Road, on the left on entering the village. Some houses are in the process of developing their gardens and boundary walls. Congratulations to the owner of the 'Rose Garden of the Year' award for 1999.

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

The new nameplates with their logo are attractively presented. Stone walls in the village look well, some have been recently refurbished. The stretch of loose stone wall located opposite the graveyard and extending towards the village should be highlighted more by refurbishing and cutting back growth. The signposts located across from the school need to be straightened. Street furniture, e.g. water pump, litter bins, telephone kiosk, flower containers etc. are all nicely presented, well done.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Tubber is an enjoyable experience on an otherwise very busy road. It has managed to present itself to the highest of standards under challenging conditions, i.e. heavy volumes of traffic and noise, which can be very limiting for a Tidy Towns Committee, well done!