

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASTLEPOLLARD**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	36
The Built Environment	40	29	26
Landscaping	40	33	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	28	29
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	16	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	206	199

Castlepollard, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Castlepollard is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the third millennium. As you are aware, the town has many handsome features, a fine town square, some beautiful Georgian architecture and many approach roads with beautifully landscaped areas. It is noted from your application that the town is awaiting a considerable number of developments including a new community hall, new housing, new One Stop Shop and others. We wish you well in the realisation of all of these projects and encourage you to ensure an appropriate standard of finish that will be complementary to the existing built environment and character of the town. Thank you for the completed application, you nominate Ballyduffy for the landscape award, however your sketch map gives no indication of where it is located. The adjudicator hopes that the right site was found.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Congratulations on the number of buildings that have been refurbished in the town square for this year, we look forward to the completion of this by the refurbishment of Kennedy's and the Corner Shop and the Derravarra Inn. The club house on the Pakenham Hall road could have a roadside boundary. Rusted roofs should be refurbished, these were particularly notable on the Pakenham Hall Road. The Pollard Arms Hotel looks particularly well now, as does 'Farrellys' and the 'Town and Country', well done on other refurbishments also. We look forward to the development of the new community centre, this will be a great asset both to the built environment of the town and, of course, to the social environment.

LANDSCAPING

The town has a fine stock of semi-mature and mature trees, well done! The flowering hawthorns in the village square are wonderful. The Fair Green looks quite magnificent with its new sculpture piece and other features. Flower displays around the town were beginning to bloom nicely. The presentation of grassed areas on the Mullingar entrance is quite magnificent and in fact has to be one of the best approaches to any town in the country. The roadside areas to the Mergon property were presented to their usual high standard also. Seating is suggested for the perimeter of the tennis courts. A small landscaped area down a side road (is this Ballyduffy?) looked extremely well, perhaps some simple seating could be provided here also.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You are encouraged to undertake a habitat survey to identify natural habitats and threats to these. This would be particularly important in Castlepollard, given the ongoing development.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was quite good around the town with the notable exception of the area outside of the Derravarra / Connies Inn. This was quite a black spot. A second litter weak spot was along the grass verge that connects the Cavan road to Water Street. Perhaps another litter bin should be provided along Church Street as this area is yet another weak spot in terms of litter.

TIDINESS

Sprayed weeds look untidy when they are discoloured, try to pay more attention to this. Other untidy elements include litter bins which are not emptied often enough and unkempt or derelict looking outbuildings.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The village has a nice mixture of residential styles ranging from Georgian style residential town houses to bungalows on the outer limits of the village to semi-detached and terraced houses in residential developments. Most are presented well, however quite a number do not pay adequate attention to the presentation of their boundary walls and the roadside area to their boundary walls. In many cases these were weedy and unkempt in appearance. The two terraced Georgian houses beside Murrays are beautifully painted and presented (on the Mullingar Road). A namestone for the residential development on the Pakenham Hall road would be appropriate. The grey weather stained walls of the residential development at the old cemetery were quite drab in appearance and could be cleaned and / or painted.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads into the village are quite well presented and entrance points, roundabouts and road junctions are indeed presented to the highest standard being neatly mown with attractive flower displays and well aligned finger posts and other signs, all of which are clean, in a good state of repair and legible. The free standing 'lights' on the traffic islands are a little run down in appearance. The wirescape in the town is quite visually obtrusive, no doubt you have made representations to the appropriate bodies to have service cables ducted. Well done on the street plaques.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Castlepollard is one of quite a stately village with a beautiful fair green and some impressive Georgian architecture. The level of maintenance of the town is very good. Congratulations on your achievements to date and good luck for the future.