

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **DELVIN**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 06-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	20
The Built Environment	40	19	19
Landscaping	40	21	18
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	23	22
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	5	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>150</b>

## **Delvin, County Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Delvin is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the third millennium. There is no reference to a three / five year plan in your application. One should be prepared and details forwarded for the competition. If you do have one and have sent it in previous years, it is necessary to send in yearly extracts, detailing what has been achieved in the last year, in this way your progress can be assessed more effectively. Delvin has some interesting historic buildings (in ruins). Can you find a way to highlight these as a feature of your village?

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Hopefully the outbuildings located on the main street which are for sale will be redeveloped for appropriate use and in a style that will complement the existing building stock and streetscape. Gaffneys plastic neon sign is too large and totally inappropriate in its streetscape, it should be removed. The village has an attractive mix of single and two storey buildings, some of which have retained their original architectural features. Buildings are, for the most part, presented to a mixed standard, some quite good and some less so. There is scope under this heading for improvement, perhaps a co-ordinated colour scheme could be adopted for buildings along the main street. The church looks magnificent in its setting of beautifully maintained lawns and stands of mature trees and, of course, it is located on a perfect site at the entrance to the main street.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Your landscaping programme might be extended to include the wall of the Lifestock Mart. This could be planted either inside or outside with trees to give a greater sense of enclosure and to soften the visual impact of this large visually imposing site. The beautifully landscaped area on the Clonmellon entrance to the village was a pleasure to note on a dull, wet June day. The mature copper beech trees and other trees in the grounds of the Catholic church are breathtaking in their beauty. A number of young hawthorn trees are maturing nicely on the footpath on the main street and were still in flower during adjudication. More trees could perhaps be planted on the footpaths, the existing ones look so well but are too few in number to make a visual impact in their streetscape.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The graveyard looks well, however there was a rubbish pile in the corner of the gateway during adjudication, it is hoped this

is not a permanent feature. Have you undertaken any activities to promote awareness of wildlife? Your Tidy Towns Handbook is an excellent source of ideas in this respect.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

A bag of rubbish was noted in a corner before the terraced houses on the Drumcree entrance. It looked as though it had been there for quite some time. Litter control is quite good throughout the village. Do share your litter management activities with us. An improvement since last year, well done!

## **TIDINESS**

A derelict site with a burnt out car was noted from the public road at the entrance to the village from the Mullingar road. The overall appearance of the village is one of tidiness (if one can ignore the tyres in storage near the main street).

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The terrace of houses across from the church on the 'Drumcree' entrance to Delvin needs to be painted, perhaps a co-ordinated colour scheme might be adopted. The two new housing units at the top of the Navan road near the junction with the main street lift this otherwise unattractive part of the town. The overall standard of presentation under this heading is good.

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

The area in front of the nameplate on the 'Drumcree' entrance to the village is very rough looking in appearance. This creates a poor first impression on entering Delvin from this road. Some stretches of stone wall need to be refurbished. The grass cuttings on the verge in front of the nameplate on the Clonmellon road look unattractive. The wirescape along the main street is quite heavy and is visually obtrusive. Hopefully this problem will be addressed within the next few years. All approach roads to the village had been recently cut along their verges but none looked that well due to grass cuttings being left and being discoloured. So many nearby villages are managing their grass verges so much better, perhaps the committee could consult with other committees in the area and get an insight into this matter. The wire and post fencing along the right hand side of the Mullingar Road should be planted with a mixture of beech and hawthorn.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The overall impression of Delvin is mixed. There are some really good areas, particularly landscaped area, however there are some serious problems in the town centre. Good luck with

your plans for the future.