

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **GLASSON**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	32	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	17
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	31
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>220</b>

## **Glasson, County Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Glasson 'Village of the Roses' is very welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the third millennium. Your theme of roses is successful and is complemented by landscaping with indigenous trees and shrubs. Congratulations on the refurbishment of the Heritage Centre, it fulfills an important social function, both for the local community and, of course, for visitors. Your plans to work closely with local tourist groups and other development groups to provide access to features in the surrounding countryside, e.g. lakes, rivers, bogs, etc. will create a very strong link between the village and its natural hinterland and open up this hinterland to all. It is good to note the links forged with FAS, ESB Co. Council and other development groups, this will ensure successful overall development of the village in the years to come.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Congratulations on the ducting of service cables and the provision of public lighting on attractive lampstandards. O'Rourke's Fireplaces and associated residential development is very well presented, well done! The redundant frame for a sign at Spollens should be removed. Spollens Garage and Spollens Concrete, Farrell's Village Inn, Grogans and the Tea Rooms are also well presented. The gable end and roadside façade of the Village Stores could be improved somewhat. The gentle rise and fall of the main street and the attractiveness of entrances to the village save Glasson from the monotony of being another linear village on a national primary route.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The successful combination of well maintained green verges with colourful rose beds against a backdrop of stone walls featuring sporadic outbreaks of ivy makes a strong visual impact. The farm outbuildings at the pump beyond the Post Office could also be planted with a rambling rose or other climbing plant to 'lift' its appearance.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Congratulations on your initiative in drawing up a wildlife plan in conjunction with the wildlife officer and, in particular, the emphasis on the area beside the stream. It is good to note that you are aware of the importance of indigenous trees and shrubs and their relationship with wildlife. Well done on the erection of bird boxes and feeders. You are also to be congratulated on your literature drop and promotion in the local supermarket on the problems caused by phosphates to

wildlife. Don't confine your wildlife efforts to the area around the stream. Stretches of hedgerow along the Moate road are valuable in terms of wildlife also. Perhaps a species count could be taken. Ensure the proper management of the hedgerow. For example, make sure that hedgerow is not trimmed any later than April 18<sup>th</sup> each year.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control is good, well done on the acquisition of the new bins these are well placed.

## **TIDINESS**

There are no major problems under this heading and your on-going level of maintenance is admired.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The use of newsletters, public meetings, etc. to encourage residents to maintain their gardens, houses and boundaries is the right approach. It is also important to ask them to look at the area immediately outside of their boundary walls, very often these are undeveloped and rough looking in appearance, (weedy, etc). If each resident could take responsibility for the area immediately outside of their boundary wall, this would be a big improvement. Residential developments along the main street are charming in their presentation. Well done on the roadside flower display to residential properties beyond the Garda Station also. No doubt the new energy saving homes located on the Benowen road will be finished to a high standard at their roadside edges to complement existing residential properties on this road. The roadside edge to the new footpath on the Benowen road will probably be finished by next year's adjudication together with a new grass verge here. There are some excellent gardens to residential properties along the main street.

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

It is good to note from your application that the water pump is now working, well done! The namesign on the Moate road could be upgraded a little. The seat surrounded by roses and located beside the telephone kiosk is a nice touch.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The overall appearance and lasting impression of Glasson is one of a very attractive village.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (02/08/00)**

The second adjudicator agrees wholeheartedly with the first. The village was again generally very well presented despite

the heavy traffic passing through. A few general faults were some walls which needed freshening up, some sheds in poor repair and the timber fencing on the northern approach which in part was in poor condition. The very simple imagery of well mown grass, stone walls and roses on the outskirts is most effective, complementing well the harmonious buildings along the street which were beautifully adorned with flowers.