

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LOUGHANAVALLEY**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	--
The Built Environment	40	19	--
Landscaping	40	20	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	--
Litter Control	40	20	--
Tidiness	20	9	--
Residential Areas	30	14	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	--
General Impression	10	5	--
TOTAL MARK	300	143	--

Loughanavalley, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Loughanavalley is welcome to the Tidy Towns Competition. The village is a crossroads village located on a relatively busy road between Mullingar and Athlone. This presents many challenges to the committee. It is necessary to prepare a three to five year development plan identifying the objectives of the committee for the village. Send in a summary of both the plan and work accomplished for the year of application each year. Your Tidy Towns Handbook is an excellent source of advice and guidance on how to proceed.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The school looks well, but the boundary wall could be presented to a higher standard. The 'William Fox' Bar and Grocery and adjacent residential property looks well. A major complex of buildings and outbuildings located on the crossroads are in varying states of disrepair and none attractively painted. As these are key focal points they must be presented to a better standard. The church looks very well.

LANDSCAPING

New hedgerow has been planted along the wire and post fencing on one side of the village. This will give better enclosure as it matures. One wonders about the site on the opposite side of the village, is this due for development? The church and graveyard carpark is beautifully landscaped with trees to its roadside edge and flower tubs, however the retaining back wall will need to be painted. The telephone kiosk looks well. Give preference to permanent plants (shrubs / trees) over seasonal flower displays and where possible choose species that will encourage wildlife. The hedgerow planted along the wire and post fencing out the Castletowngeoghan / Tullamore road looks well.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The graveyard looks well with its stands of mature trees and its belfry. The purpose of this heading is to expand awareness of the village of wildlife to the community and to take steps to protect it from possible dangers. An appropriate first step is a habitat survey and species count. Again you are referred to your Tidy Towns Handbook.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is good. The appropriate placement of litter bins, the frequency of clean-ups and sweeping and educational

activities are all taken into account in addition to litter control on the day of adjudication. Send in details of your litter management strategy with next year's application.

TIDINESS

Derelict buildings are sites that are judged under this heading. These should be kept as tidy as possible while awaiting redevelopment. The local authority should be consulted. Dumping, untidy side and back areas and weed growth along kerbs and the base of walls are other aspects of untidiness which should be controlled.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Gardens, side areas, boundary walls and roadside areas to walls are all judged under this heading in addition to the property itself. Green open spaces and general circulation areas must also be well maintained.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads to the village had been recently cut on adjudication day but the grass cuttings had not yet been removed and were discoloured and unattractive in appearance. One entrance to the village features stands of mature trees and a ditch on the right hand side of the road backed by hedgerow. The Ballynacargy approach is well presented. The redundant frame and post on the Ballynacargy road should be removed. Hedgerow on both sides of the road out the Castletowngeoghan / Tullamore road looks well. Hedgerows are a feature of most approach roads and can be managed for wildlife. It is important not to cut these after April 18th to maximise their wildlife potential. Verges can be neatly trimmed or feature a display of indigenous wildflowers. Work in progress was noted on the top of the Tullamore Road.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Loughnavally is an attractive village with potential for success in the Tidy Towns Competition. Derelict sites and buildings will have to receive attention. Don't forget to prepare a development plan for the village.