

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NURNEY**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	26
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	27	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	10
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	20	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	24
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	187	169

Nurney, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your entry form, map, plan and additional notes which were most helpful to the adjudicator. Your development plan is a very interesting one and you have taken the strengths and opportunities on board which is to be commended. You have set out clearly your objectives and progress for each year. One does look forward to seeing great progress being made at the end of the life of this plan. You have made a tremendous start with the production of this it and no doubt the community will rise to the challenges which it will bring. This is only your second year in the competition and you have certainly approached it in a very workmanlike manner. It is good to see that you continue to liaise with the Carlow County Council, the Barrow-Nore-Suir Rural Development and Carlow Community Network. All these organisations have very valuable help and assistance to give you.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As indicated in your plan and in last year's report the village does not have a number of public buildings. What it has are certainly maintained very well and they include the Pub, Post Office, Church and School. The school is maintained in excellent condition as is the Church. When the floodlights are switched on to the Church it must look very impressive. Well done to all concerned for getting this project off the ground. Perhaps the owners of sheds should be encouraged to paint the roofs, etc. The area where the telephone booth was has had a nice job done to it. It does take time to bring the whole village on board but you have made great strides over the year.

LANDSCAPING

You continue to maintain the embankment in excellent condition and well done to all concerned. The shrubs and plants are well cared for and were weed free on the day. The hanging baskets and window boxes have made a great contribution in terms of colour. Well done to all concerned for securing prize of Best New Entrant in the 2000 Floral Pride Competition. It was great to see that you sought advice on the type of tree suitable for your village and also attention was given to where they were placed. The selection of trees throughout was indeed very appropriate. No doubt you will take great care in the management of these trees as they mature and grow. You have worked incredibly hard on this aspect of the Competition and well done to all concerned. Continue to seek advice for future planting of trees and shrubs because they are very important plants in the village landscape.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

A very good starting point was to plant the hazel hedge which will give many of the mammals food, shelter and protection. Eventually it will become intertwined with ivy, honeysuckle etc. A useful leaflet on hedgerows can be had from ENFO (Environmental Information Service), 17 St Andrews Street, Dublin 2, which may be helpful to you. Do continue to work on this aspect of the Competition because it will make nature more accessible and enjoyable for people. Do continue to include nature conservation in your future plans and development work.

LITTER CONTROL

The control of litter was very good throughout the village. The regular clean-ups which you have undertaken do help to keep litter off the streets of the village. One has to be constantly vigilant and encourage public awareness all the time. The overall amount of litter seen on the day was small. Litter bins certainly help but it is essential not to let the bins get too full.

TIDINESS

As last year the control of weed growth at kerbs and at the base of wall and buildings was very good. However it does need regular attention. The footpath under the trees on the Tullow road had some weeds in the loose chipping. Again, do continue to encourage individual property owners to take responsibility for the area outside their places.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Great effort has been made by the residents of the village in helping to improve the overall appearance by providing hanging baskets and window boxes for their properties. The colour and variety of the plants on display were lovely. One would hope to see this aspect to be continued and improved. It is also essential to take into consideration the maintenance of the hanging baskets and the window boxes. The householders in the housing estate have made a very good effort to having their properties looking very well. Many of the boundary walls were painted and this certainly added to the overall presentation. I note that you intend to paint the boundary walls of the properties in Hill View Estate but on the day of adjudication not all the boundary walls had received attention. No doubt this will happen in due course. Well done to all the residents of Nurney for their community spirit. When the landscaping of the new houses is completed it will certainly add to the overall presentation of the village.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Some new signs were in place. The name sign does need to be cleaned and painted. Also many of the poles need cleaning and painting. The approach roads are good, but

verges do need to be neat and tidy. Also, perhaps gates to fields and shed doors need attention. I note that sign posting will be receiving attention in due course.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You are to be commended for your efforts to improve specific aspects of your village. All the residents appear to have combined to improve its overall presentation of the village. You have taken on board the comments made in the report last year and in particular drawing up the five year plan. Do continue to work on this and it will no doubt contribute to making your village a wonderful place for all to live in.