

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **OLD LEIGHLIN**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	31
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	195	188

Old Leighlin, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your plan for the next three to five years, map and work programme for this year is very comprehensive. You are a very motivated committee and work hard to achieve results for the village. You are continuously building on your plan without concentrating on any one aspect of the competition. As indicated your committee is small but very active. It is also good to see that other people help on a regular basis with projects. You have tremendous local support and that is invaluable to your overall effort. You continue to have the support of the Local Authority and other agencies. The involvement of the school is vital because your villager's children will be the members of your Tidy Towns committee in the years ahead. The fund raising is very well supported and also the matching funding which is of enormous help to assist with the various projects you have undertaken.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

St Lazerians Cathedral and graveyard are presented very well throughout. When the new houses are completed consideration should be given to the landscaping of the community hall and the area beside it. The commercial properties in the village continue to be reasonably well presented but a more co-ordinated approach in terms of colour and maintenance would help the overall appearance of the village. The school and its grounds did look very well. The Holy Well and its car park into which you have put a lot of energy over the last number of years continues to be well maintained. Perhaps the well area itself could be tidied up removing some of the objects left by those who come to visit. The intention is not in dispute but it does nothing to enhance this holy place. Perhaps a suitable container could be found for people to deposit the variety of articles left behind in the area around the cross and altar. The area around the community pitch will also need to be tidied up when the building of the new houses is completed.

LANDSCAPING

The picnic area continues to be very well maintained. The planting that you have done in recent years is doing nicely, but when more mature it will blend in with the already existing trees and vegetation. Constant vigilance is necessary to keep the shrub bed weed free. A set programme for cutting and trimming the grass verges is useful. The healing garden did need some attention and it needs constant vigilance to keep it looking well. Rose bed on the bank and the spa gardens looked really nice and also the stonework with the name worked in was a good choice. Your advice from the local garden centre and also

from the botanist in Carlow is of excellent help to you.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You will find when you produce the information on wildlife, flora and fauna of the area that it will be a most interesting project for the committee, the school children and the community at large. You have many possibilities throughout the village and they include the area at the well and also the hedgerows. The Environmental Information Service at 17 St Andrews Street, Dublin 2, have very informative leaflets available on hedgerows, flora and fauna and should be very helpful to you in getting this exercise started and completed.

LITTER CONTROL

Your plan put in place for the control of litter is working very well and the community are responding to that by having no huge amounts of litter or black spots. Do continue to encourage public awareness of the damage caused to your village by litter. A few small pieces on the road past the new houses and similar in the housing estate at the entrance to where the new houses are being constructed. Well done to all concerned for their efforts in helping to keep litter under control in the village.

TIDINESS

The area around the name stone at the entrance to the village from the main road and the grass verges and bases of walls throughout were almost weed free. The wall after the new houses on the back road does need the weeds removed from the base there. Continue to seek the co-operation and assistance of the residents and the owners of commercial properties to look after their own boundaries and kerbs.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residents of the housing estate can feel justifiably proud of their efforts in its presentation. Some stunning colours were used in the bed on the open green space. The picnic table and seats were maintained in excellent condition. All the properties here were maintained to a very high standard with the exception of an odd boundary wall which would need painting. Well done to everybody here. One does hope that the entrance and the open green space in the new houses being constructed will be finished to a very high standard. Also the other property owners are making a very good effort in most cases to having them looking well presented. There are one or two minor exceptions where they do need attention to walls and growth outside the walls. The new houses on the back road have a very nice stonewall and are maintained in very good condition.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The stonewall opposite the well is now completed and well

done to all concerned for a very fine job. The car park continues to be maintained in very good condition but weeds on the surface need to be removed. The old signs do need to be cleaned and painted. The new ones were in good condition. Another aspect which will need some thought by the committee is the treatment of gates into fields and farm buildings where the entrances will need to be tidied and gates painted.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Your committee continues to put in very hard work. The picnic and well area is testament to that. You have a very good plan in place and with the support of the community you will continue to do well in this competition. The tremendous amount of work being put in is making your village a lovely place to live in.