

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MIDDLETON**
County : **CORK**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	34	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	12	14
Residential Areas	30	25	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	216	212

Midleton, Co. Cork.

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Midleton Tidy Towns Committee obviously have a high level of pride in the town's fine architectural, historical and cultural heritage. Your five year work programme should be completed next year, therefore perhaps it is time to look to the next stage in the town's development. Plans in relation to litter control, landscaping improvements and development of wildlife areas were read with great interest and should be a marvellous asset to the town, in years to come.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both public and commercial premises were generally well maintained on the day. Much improvements have taken place over the last year along the very long wide main street of Midleton. The work involved in the restoration of the Old Bank House / Guilfoyle's has been well worthwhile as this building looks extremely well. McDaid's attractive stone façade was also admired. The AIB in brick in its prominent location at the top of Main Street on the Cork side of town looked extremely well, as did the stone Courthouse opposite. The Catholic Church was fine but its gates were quite rusty and should be painted before next year's competition. John the Baptist Church of Ireland and grounds looked extremely well. The National School and grounds were fine, although some further landscaping could be considered. Do continue to encourage the removal of projecting plastic signs, much work is evident in relation to this problem area in all Irish towns. The Army Barracks is a fine example of an early modern building and should be freshly painted. The Library is an attractive stone building in its central location on Main Street. One or two abandoned shabby buildings created a bad impression in this category of the competition i.e. the empty Toyworld shop, one adjacent to the Irish Permanent and the upper level of the façade of the building facing the Irish Distillers entrance which appeared extremely grubby. Do resist the temptation to remove plasterwork from buildings to reveal the stone below. Vernacular buildings were designed to be rendered and removal of plasterwork, as well as being conservationally incorrect can lead to problems with water penetration.

LANDSCAPING

Work in this category of the competition is certainly paying off. The attractive landscaping by the riverside with its picnic tables, well mown grass (becoming more natural by the water's edge) and wild poppies looked most attractive. Further landscaping at the roundabout and to the new car park area were coming along well. The lime trees on Broderick Street are an attractive feature in this location and the recently planted ash trees along Main Street create an attractive "Greening" of the town's main thoroughfare. Private

landscaping such as that to the entrance area outside the Rugby Club enhance this aspect of the competition greatly.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Bailick Park and adjacent Slobland Development will be a marvellous asset to the town for years to come. Midleton is most fortunate in regard to this aspect of the competition with its marvellous riverside areas and wealth of mature trees and hedgerows along approach roads. Perhaps you could consider setting a project for school children in relation to the wildlife habitats of their area.

LITTER CONTROL

The adjudicator was pleased to note your ongoing work in regard to this nationwide problem, i.e. the mechanical street sweeper, litter wardens and studies/projects by school children. Problem areas were along the Tallow Road, at the car park outside the Jameson Heritage Centre and along the Fermoy Road.

TIDINESS

Do ensure that rear areas and alleyways are not neglected. That adjacent to Ricky's Bar looked quite unfortunate apart from the cheerful planting outside a doorway. An overgrown area between the fire station and the bridge created a bad impression as did the oil tank behind the furniture shop which should be screened from public view.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category of the competition was extremely good. The attractive brick cottages set back and above the Tallow Road and the cottages beyond (some abandoned) looked extremely cheerful with their plentiful displays of hanging baskets and window boxes. There is a great deal of expansion in this area of the competition in terms of the housing estates providing accommodation for the commuter belt. The recently finished Castle Redmond Estate on the Whitegate Road looked well with its entrance wall and gates. However, the open space to the front of the Elm Grove Estate was quite overgrown. An attractive stone house at the start of Main Street on the Youghal side was greatly admired.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The main streets of the town looked well cared for on adjudication day. In terms of approach roads the road surface of the Fermoy Road was in bad condition and verges were quite overgrown. In relation to signage, the Welcome to Elsinore sign on this road was extremely flaky and directional signs at the Main Street / Connelly Street junction were quite grubby.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Midleton is an extremely busy town which seems to be ever-expanding! You seem to have ensured that any new

housing developments maintain a high level of landscaping and finish. Generally the town looked well on the day.