

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ATHY**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	21	21
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	201	197

Athy, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Athy is welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition, thank you for your fine submission. We note with interest your efforts under all of the headings in the competition and the update to your five year plan. We wish you well in your future activities and the implementation of your plan. The town has a wonderful and valuable heritage which is reflected in the existence of the many heritage buildings and monuments. Thank you for the photographic record, it is valuable to have a pictorial account of your achievements for future Tidy Towns people.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The two town squares, both the Edmond Rice Square and the Market Square together with the Castle and the bridge are key elements of the townscape and are beautifully presented. Do try to keep the fountain in the Market Square free of litter and cans. These were not very visible, admittedly the adjudicator had to stand on tip toes to see them, however, they shouldn't be there at all. Quite a large percentage of your buildings need to be refurbished to their roadside façades. The walls forming the entrance to Athy RFC should be rewhitewashed. The flower displays along the roadside wall were noted and admired. The grounds of the Model School were elegant in their simplicity. Both Kanes and Blacks are nicely presented and are being considered for the shopfront award. The church is beautiful, some sections of the building need cleaning, otherwise there are no problems here. Weed growth in the carpark ought to be eliminated.

LANDSCAPING

The town is well endowed with stands of mature, semi-mature and new trees, all of which add to the wildlife value of Athy. Flower containers were noted at several locations. A number of incidental hard and soft landscaped areas were noted and features such as the Sun Dial were much admired. It is this type of detail that gives a town a restful, easy going, ambience. Your landscaping activities should incorporate the Athy Recreational Community Hall curtilage area as it is very large and bare in its present condition. The commercial yards of properties on the Kilkenny entrance to Athy should be planted to their wire and post perimeter fencing for greater enclosure. The corner at the Kilkee/Castledermot junction could be improved. Flowerbeds near this junction were colourful.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river, which flows through the centre of the town, is a fine amenity and its banks were being enjoyed very much on the day of our visit. There were people fishing, sitting

around chatting and people strolling along the riverside walk. Do try to identify threats to wildlife and plan for its protection/conservation.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was quite good, there appears to be enough litter bins and all of them had been recently emptied at the time of our visit. Your weekly litter patrol sounds like fun. The provision of 'dog poo' bins around the town is a good idea. A particular litter weak spot was alongside the canal, close to the bridge.

TIDINESS

The recycling bay in the carpark was very tidy, well done here! Problems under this heading include weed growth along kerbs and derelict or semi-derelict buildings and sites. The Grove premises and its curtilage area present a problem under this heading, no doubt it is earmarked for redevelopment. Do ensure that the remains of all building materials are removed on completion of construction work, particularly in the area around the Church and the Surgery. The clothing bank container should be repainted. The council yards should be planted around their perimeter fencing for greater enclosure or good quality panels might be considered as an alternative.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

'Forest Park' is aptly named given its wonderful stand of semi-mature trees defining its entrance. 'Pairc Bhríde' looked well also. Terraced town houses present an elegant façade. There are some beautifully presented gardens.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Car parking arrangements around the town are well organised. All of the bi-lingual streetnames are a valuable asset and should be maintained clean. Some stretches of road had been neatly trimmed, others were quite overgrown, but looked reasonably well with their outbreaks of wildflowers. The outer roadside edge of verges could be trimmed and the inside edges allowed to feature a display of wildflowers. We look forward to the ducting of overhead service cables and the acquisition and featuring of attractive lampstandards along the Main Street. The carpark beside the canal did not compare favourably with the others.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Athy is a town with a rich, cultural and physical heritage which is being developed for amenity for both residents and the travelling public. A good overall presentation!