

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **STRAFFAN**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	28
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	200	195

Straffan, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Straffan is very welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed entry and for the additional information. The Straffan Village Improvement Scheme sounds exciting and we wish you well in its implementation. There are some excellent scenic views of the village from approach roads.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Catholic church which is an important focal point in the village presents a beautiful vista on entering Straffan from the Lucan road. The extension to the school was noted during adjudication and when construction work has ceased, both the boundary wall should be painted and the hard shoulder of the roadside resurfaced. The Church of Ireland building looks quite splendid.

LANDSCAPING

A flower bed was being prepared at the time of adjudication but flowers had not yet been planted. Mature trees continue to look splendid and are an important feature of Straffan. The focus of your efforts should be on permanent planting.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The graveyard looks excellent in its presentation from the main road of the village. The gates of the sports field need to be refurbished. The meadow of buttercups out the Lucan road was 'refreshing'. The arch effect of trees from both sides of the road meeting in the centre at the entrance from the Lucan road is delightful. The graveyard at the Church of Ireland is being nicely maintained. The village is situated so close to the banks of the Liffey that this must be considered as part of the heritage of Straffan also, a wildlife awareness programme could be instigated. At the time of adjudication, a heron was sighted from the bridge. We look forward to the redevelopment of 'Parsons Walk'. Is the nature walk through the K club sign posted from the village?

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is very good, well done. Walkers with litter pickers were spotted during the adjudication. We wish you well on your initiative to provide 'crow proof' bins.

TIDINESS

Weed growth along kerbs on the entrance to the village from the northern road should be eliminated. There were no serious problems under this heading. Encourage property owners to be vigilant regarding the presentation of their curtilage areas.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The infill housing at the entrance from the Lucan road looks very well, it is hoped now that the roadside edge will be finished off here. The many residential properties out the northern approach road are beautifully presented in all respects and the new residential estate on this road looks well also, (however its grass was in need of cutting at the time of adjudication). Green areas in the Coarse Moor estate were neatly presented, however the planters on the green were empty. Shrubs should be provided for these rather than flowers.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Old potholes out the Lucan road are a problem. The School road sign on the northern road was facing the wrong way during adjudication, this is dangerous and should be attended to. A 'Yield' road sign in the centre needs to be refurbished as do one or two litter bins. A stretch of verge along the left going out the western road featured a lot of rubble which was quite unsightly. The new nameplates looked well. An old nameplate should be refurbished. The outer stretches of the footpath out the southern road needs to be reinstated along its kerb.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression of Straffan is one of a very pleasant village, situated close to the major wildlife habitat, associated with the River Liffey and beside a major recreational amenity facility. Standards of presentation are good throughout.