

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DURROW**
County : **LAOIS**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	18
Litter Control	40	23	24
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	35
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	231	229

Durrow, Co. Laois

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Durrow is welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. Well done on your activities with FAS, the local school, Coillte, the local Angling Club and other bodies. It is this type of approach which will take you further into the competition. Thank you also for this year's copy of your three to five year plan, we wish you well in its implementation. Durrow is an extremely busy village in terms of through traffic being located on a national primary route. The volume of traffic, noise and attendant air and dust pollution are problems and yet the village looks well and has been maintained superbly. This is a credit to the community and particularly to the Tidy Towns Committee, well done. With new housing development, Durrow is likely to undergo changes over the next few years. We hope these enrich the social life of the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The majority of buildings look really well. Keep your proposed colour scheme soft and use pastel 'nature' colours. The colour scheme for the Durrow Inn looks promising, work had just commenced at the time of first adjudication. The Castle Arms Hotel is presented to its usual high standard and the adjacent small shops, Happy Days and others are brightly painted also.

LANDSCAPING

Mature and semi-mature trees make a significant impact on the village and, of course, are a haven for wildlife. It is good to note the replacement of damaged trees. Well done on the planting of beech hedgerow also, this gives wonderful winter colour. Landscaping at the Community Hall is maturing nicely. Work was in progress at the time of adjudication on the site to the roadside of the Pump House. No doubt this will be completed later on during the summer for the second adjudication and, of course, for next year. Some variegated ivy or other climbing plant might be planted to large grey walls such as the IFI Depot and other commercial properties.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Well done on your 'Leafy Loop Walk'. A suitable wildlife project might be to undertake a survey of wildlife along selected stretches of the Leafy Loop Walk and identify possible threats and protection measures. The goal under this heading is to increase and enhance awareness of the importance of wildlife within the community and any activity that will do this is valuable. The riverside amenity area was being well used on the day of adjudication. The entrance to Lions AFC is quite tatty in appearance which stands in

contrast to the handsome limestone name plaques here. Remove the tree branch from the river.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was quite good around the town in general, given the size of Durrow and how busy it is. However there was a litter problem on the green, it was being caused by a bin not having been emptied recently, it was full to capacity and birds were freely able to pick out the contents of the bin and ravage through them on the grass. This is a pity and the problem could have been avoided had the bin been emptied. The adjudicator noted with interest that other bins had been emptied. A light scattering was also noted around the Castle and the Church of Ireland.

TIDINESS

Derelict buildings continue to present a problem under this heading. Ensure the removal of all debris / building materials on the completion of construction work.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Durrow is a pleasant mix of single, two storey and three storey townhouses in addition to housing estates and bungalows on approach roads. The majority of properties are presented to a high standard. We note the development of new housing on the Kilkenny road and anticipate that the new members of the community will be a valuable source of help for the Tidy Towns Competition and enrich the life of the village in other ways also. Landscaping was already in place at the new Derrywood estate although the estate has not yet been completed. This augers well for the standard of presentation of this residential development.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The provision of the new bilingual street names of local limestone is admirable. Congratulations on the ducting of overhead service cables in key areas of the town. Congratulations also on the bilingual stone signs. A few road signs were in need of refurbishment and some seating needs to be repainted. Approach roads and entrances to the village are beautifully presented.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Well done on a good overall presentation. The Leafy Loop Walk will be considered for the Landscape Award, however it did not appear to the adjudicator to be wheelchair accessible as claimed in your submission.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (04/08/01)

The entrance to Durrow from the Abbeyleix side is very impressive. The central greens play a very significant part of the appearance of the town. While they appear well, a more co-ordinated approach to the planting theme would be

welcome. The very large green at Erkindale offers good opportunity for tree planting. More attention to detail is desirable, such as the grass care on the greens and edging, kerbside weed grass, painting of the castle gates and attention to the substantial amount of litter at the picnic tables by the riverside. The stone wall being constructed by the road frontage of the Derrywood estate is attractive. Less attractive and out of context are the pink paving bricks by the slipway to the river at the fire station.