

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SPINK**
County : **LAOIS**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	--
The Built Environment	40	20	--
Landscaping	40	26	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	--
Litter Control	40	35	--
Tidiness	20	12	--
Residential Areas	30	19	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	180	--

Spink, Co. Laois

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Spink is very welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. It is important to prepare a development plan for the village. Please submit one next year.

A footpath should link the village centre to the church and other community facilities. A community park might also be developed somewhere in the centre of the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The church and its grounds looks well but its boundary walls needs to be improved. Headons (The Spink Bar) looks attractive. The outbuildings across from it look untidy and detract from this area at the heart of the village. The farm outbuildings on the bend in the Ballyroan road should be kept freshly whitewashed. The school and its grounds were admired as was the Knock Community Hall. The yards of the 'Glanbia' premises could be better enclosed if the wire fencing here was planted with a climbing plant. The existing shrubs here are inadequate.

LANDSCAPING

The picnic area is beautifully landscaped and the stone picnic tables and benches look great. Stretches of concrete post fencing should be planted with hawthorn hedgerow. You could extend your landscaping activity to the junction of the road leading to the church. The service pole here should be removed eventually and perhaps a sculpture piece or attractive lampstandard put in its place. Well done on the landscaping of the site facing the road leading up to the church. In your landscaping, avoid the use of Cordylines in favour of native species. The large tree which dominates the picnic area makes a very strong positive statement.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Is there scope to develop the small stretch of riverbank for amenity or to develop a walk along the river. Long stretches of hedgerow in the village are a valuable wildlife habitat, those in flower looked well also. Outbreaks of wildflowers on the Ballyroan road were visually pleasant.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was good but no litter bins were noted and no indication has been given regarding your litter management programme. We would like to know a little about this.

TIDINESS

The site with the remains of the demolished building near the Bar should be cleared and the curtilage areas of some buildings need to be tidied also.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most residential properties are of the traditional kind and are nicely presented. A new stone wall to a residential property at the Clough end of the village looked well. Some properties on the Abbeyleix end of the village could use a little more attention to their boundary treatment. Some of these were hedgerow which could have been shaped a little better and one was a wall which could be cleaned or painted and the long grass cut back a little better. There was some nice detail to the boundary wall of a large two storey traditional property facing the road leading to the school and Community Hall.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The new footpath leading up to the church looks well, perhaps the fencing to its inside could be cleared of long grasses and planted with hedgerow. The old stone work of the old bridges were admired. One of the nameplates was in need of cleaning at the Abbeyleix entrance to the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Spink is a tiny hamlet located on a busy road to Abbeyleix and offers pleasant facilities for the travelling public in its picnic area. A little more work is needed to give the village a stronger sense of identity. Some thought should be given to linking the various areas of the village together with a footpath.