

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **STRADBALLY-LAOIS**  
County : **LAOIS**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 06-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	28	29
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	17	23
Tidiness	20	12	14
Residential Areas	30	25	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	6	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>220</b>

## **Stradbally, Co. Laois**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Stradbally is very welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for details of your two year plan, we wish you well in its implementation. The village enjoys a rural setting with a backdrop of low lying hills. Its wide main street is complemented beautifully by two town squares and some very handsome buildings. It is good to note that the Tidy Towns Committee works with other groups in the town and liaises with statutory bodies. We wish you well in overcoming the problem of the old houses on the green. Some of your plans for activities during the summer will be too late for this year's competition, maybe these could be organised in time for the following years competitions. Try not to be disheartened over the loss of marks this year, this was due to poor litter control and not very high standards of tidiness. When these problems are addressed, these marks will be regained.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The Credit Union building looks well as do most buildings along Stradbally's gracious main street. The curtilage area of the Togher station looks poor. Many buildings are in need of refurbishment to their roadside façades and some still have dated plastic neon signs. The old mill continues to make a negative visual impact, however the newly refurbished Malt House development looks well. St. Joseph's school looks well as do churches. The school and its grounds out the Glebe road are well presented also.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The landscaped corner at the top of the Athy road at the junction with the main street has matured wonderfully. Landscaped junctions at entrances to the town from approach roads make a significant contribution to the overall appearance of the village. Trees are maturing well. Permanent planting is preferable to flower displays.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The Oakvale Woodland Area is a valuable amenity for the local community in the recreational facilities it provides and of course is a valuable habitat for wildlife and there are excellent scenic views from the carpark here, which added to its amenity value.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control was weak all along the main street and must lose you marks at your level in the competition. Some litter bins could have been better presented. You may need to take some further action or new initiatives for better litter control.

## **TIDINESS**

Recycling points are well sited and the area around them was relatively tidy on adjudication day. One of these, i.e. the white one and perhaps the blue one could be cleaned. Weed growth along kerbs out the Glebe road is a problem under this heading as is litter. There is a lot of untidiness around commercial premises out the Glebe road. Most roadsigns are in need of attention.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The Glebe residential development is nicely finished and, no doubt, its soft areas will be brought to the standard achieved for Brockley Park. Town houses look well, most are well presented. Infill housing complements the existing stock and new estates being developed should make an important contribution to the cultural life of Stradbally.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Some items of street furniture could be improved by painting, for example seating and some litter bins. Many flower containers had not yet been planted. The wirescape is visually obtrusive along the main street and it is hoped that you will be successful in the not too distant future at having this ducted. A short stretch of what appear to be limestone kerb stones extend out the Portlaoise road towards the nameplate and a little beyond. These are not making their full visual impact as they are half buried.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

It is some years since this adjudicator has visited Stradbally and was quite disappointed in this year's presentation. There are both opportunities and challenges ahead for the Tidy Towns Committee, and we look forward to seeing the improvements which can be achieved.