

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KNOCKBRIDGE**
County : **LOUTH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	30	29
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	28	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	242	238

Knockbridge, Co. Louth

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Knockbridge is welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. The view of the church from approach roads is an attractive feature of Knockbridge and heralds the approach to a village from the travelling public. All presentations were done to an excellent standard. Congratulations on winning a Green Town Award.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The T. MacNamee building could be repainted. The public house at the corner seems to be having its name refurbished as it had been whitened over during our visit. We look forward to its completion. The Cu Chulainn bronze piece on the wall of the Community Hall is a most attractive feature. Halla Wolf Tone is very nicely presented, as is Brodigans Stores. The white boundary wall located across from Brodigans should be kept freshly whitewashed. Disabled access at Halla Wolfe Tone was noted.

LANDSCAPING

Some of the Cordyline trees in containers in the village centre appear to be dead, they should be removed. It is preferable to avoid non-native species like Cordyline, so it is not recommended that they be replanted. The Cu Chulainn bronze piece at the northern approach to the village is beautiful. The earth here has been 'turned', is it to be reseeded? The stone arrangement on the green on Lisheen Park is unusual. Landscaping to the back of the school was colourful. The semi-mature trees in the village centre are a characteristic feature of Knockbridge and the area around them is being nicely maintained.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Stephenstown Pond continues to impress. Its many wildlife features are a pleasure, particularly the five new cygnets. The nature trail here and the associated questionnaire and colouring initiative for children is a valuable educational tool and a very pleasant way of making children aware of their valuable heritage. The arboretum is a fine development.

LITTER CONTROL

The entrance at the derelict Gate Lodge across from the entrance was badly littered on adjudication day. Litter control throughout the village and on approach roads was impressive, however the pathway between the back of the school grounds and the boundary wall of the graveyard was quite heavily littered. This is a serious weak spot in your litter management programme, had the day been windy the streets of the village could have suffered.

TIDINESS

There was an overall appearance of tidiness throughout Knockbridge which was a pleasure to note.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The housing development on the road to Stephenstown Pond continues to impress with its beautifully landscaped roadside green featuring mature trees as well as a variety of shrubs and newly planted trees. Lisroland View appears to be a fine development and is being nicely landscaped. Cluan Anna is unusual with the fronts of houses facing into the back gardens of other houses.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Two sets of old iron gates on the approach road from Stephenstown Pond were noted, these should be refurbished and painted. One set is located across from the sports ground and the second set out beyond the sports ground on the same side of the road. A number of traditional stone circular gate posts were noted and much admired. The school and church carpark is beautifully surfaced, well done. The neatly mown verges of the northern approach road backed by high hedgerow and planted at intervals with trees signal the village ahead to the travelling public. The church carpark on the main road is nicely planted and many of the shrubs were in flower. There are still a few potholes at the interface of the carpark and the public road, however, the overall presentation here is very good. Street furniture such as pumps, flower containers, lighting, etc. are all nicely presented.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Knockbridge is a delightful village which much to interest the visitor and resident.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (03/08/01)

Landscaping and planting was most attractive at midsummer. This adjudicator had not been in Knockbridge since the building of the Peeken Development houses – this is a promising estate, the planting of trees is admirable, and by next year no doubt the unkempt areas will have been tidied up. The Burns Cottage was also new to the second adjudicator. (Would the exterior really have been pebbledashed at the time the cottage was occupied in the early 19th century?) This, like the Stephenstown Pond, is a remarkably adventurous project. The success of these major developments, however, should not allow small details commented on by the first adjudicator to be ignored at this crucial point in the Competition