

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LORRHA**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	--
The Built Environment	40	30	--
Landscaping	40	27	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	--
Litter Control	40	29	--
Tidiness	20	14	--
Residential Areas	30	20	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	--
General Impression	10	7	--
TOTAL MARK	300	203	--

Lorrha, Tipperary North

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Lorrha is a small village with a considerable heritage. Lorrha Development Association is to be congratulated in endeavouring to ensure that the village protects this heritage and also enhances the environment in general. Thank you for the concise documentation received including application details and plans for 2001/2004. These plans seem achievable and realistic and we look forward to seeing progress in the future. The sketch map was also helpful but we would suggest that the historic buildings and areas where work has taken place during the year should also be pinpointed. We note that you have a good working relationship with FAS, the Tipperary NR County Council, Shannon Development and, most importantly, with the local community.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The ruins of St. Ruadhan's Abbey, the Augustinian Priory and the magnificent Dominican Priory are the main heritage buildings in the village. It was good to note that the work on removing the ivy from St. Ruadhan's Abbey is in progress and the Dominican Priory is well laid out and maintained. It was unfortunate that some time in the past a ball alley was attached to the Augustinian Priory, actually using the old walls to form part of this. Are there any plans to restore this area to how it was? Also, there are a number of derelict buildings around the village and thought needs to be given to a long-term solution to this problem. We noted the imaginative part disguise of the Nissan type building next to St. Ruadhan's Abbey but more needs to be done in this area. Your work during the year on the walls at the Grotto and the Parochial House was noted. The School is well presented with nice planting. The Community Hall, whilst well presented, could also do with some planting to soften its appearance. The Garda Station contributes to your efforts by provision of hanging baskets but the grounds here could have been tidier.

LANDSCAPING

This is a category where Lorrha shines. The approach roads with the lovely green planted areas, with bog oak sculptures are very good. However, some nice stone walls on approach roads need to have brambles and ivy removed. On the Birr road the picnic area is attractive for visitors – could a car parking space be developed next to this to facilitate easy access? In general, it would be recommended that more native trees such as chestnut, sycamore, oak or lime be planted to leave a long term legacy for future generations. There are some mature trees (notably chestnuts) in the village but there are also quite an amount of short life trees planted. St Ruadhan's Well area is nicely maintained. The space in the centre of the village

where the new display maps are situated now creates a focal point with its seating and planted containers. The window boxes around the village, which you distribute, deserve a special mention as they were overflowing with rich colour throughout. The planting of daffodil bulbs for spring colour is admirable. All landscaping should be approached with a view to having year round colour.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The planted areas throughout the village contribute in this category and we noted that some berried ash trees have been planted which should encourage birdlife. We await further progress in respect of provision of nesting boxes as mentioned in your plan and also the development of a "green" group in the School.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little of evidence of litter in the village on the day of adjudication.

TIDINESS

The village street was mostly neat and tidy and the kerbs weedfree. Unfortunately, there is a very untidy visible back yard on the way down to St. Ruadhans Abbey. Weeds inside the Augustian Priory were sprayed without being removed, leaving a brown residue. Weeds should be removed before spraying.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are a number of private houses at the core of the village and they are mostly contributing to the tidy town's effort. Also houses on the approach roads were well presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Signage was good throughout the village and, as mentioned above, the new informational display maps should be of benefit to visitors.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It is obvious that Lorrha recognises its responsibilities in respect of preserving its heritage and also has the general wellbeing of the village at heart. However, there are a number of problem areas in respect of the built environment, which will need attention in the years ahead.