

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	27
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	19
General Impression	10	5	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>160</b>

## **Upperchurch, Tipperary North**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Upperchurch is a very pleasant rural village with much potential. To maximise this potential, the Committee of twelve must draw up a plan for future action (as suggested in last year's report). This could be a simple document setting out objectives (i.e. such as painting concrete railings) putting a time frame on each item and identifying who would undertake to ensure that this action happened. Again you are losing marks in this section because of lack of planning. Also the entry form needed to be filled in more comprehensively and a map should accompany same.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

O'Dwyers Undertakers, Foodstore and Post Office was well presented with a pleasant garden adjoining. In regard to other buildings, the Mid West Health Board needed a new door, the Church (which is an imposing structure) needed some work carried out on the bottom of a pillar near the main door and Murray's Pub (which has good traditional features of character) needs to be given a facelift. On the side road we noted that the old School is for sale – hopefully with new ownership this will improve. Some building work is also taking place in the centre of the village. Oliver Ryan's Pub and surrounds were well presented and also Uplands IT. The pump feature and old stone building in the grounds of the Church were admired. Also, the blue and white phone box is appropriate to the character of the village. Stone walls are mostly good but near the bend some repairs were needed. A watch should be kept that brambles and ivy do not encroach on these walls.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The planting at the graveyard is impressive but some weeding was needed here and the concrete fencing needed repainting. The planting of large shrubs on one of the approach roads was admired. The trees planted on the Thurles road are maturing nicely. However, there is one dead near the Slan Leat sign which should be removed or replaced. The Grotto is a focal feature in the centre of the village and here again some weeding was needed.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The planted areas around the village contribute in this category. However, when drawing up your plan it would be good to include a specific project in this regard – the Tidy Towns Handbook may supply you with some ideas.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

There was quite an amount of litter in the Church grounds and a sprinkling throughout the village.

## **TIDINESS**

The kerbs, paths and patio areas were a little weedy and the seated area beside P.O'Cuinneain's pub was rather untidy with some litter and a bare barbed wire fence here. The visible yard at the other side of this pub was quite tidy on the day.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Private houses in and around the village were mostly well presented. There are a few new houses in the course of construction and no doubt you will be encouraging these residents to complete their surrounds satisfactorily. The red brick community housing is well maintained.

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

Signage throughout was quite good with some refurbishment needed. The large display map near the Church is very informative. The hedges on the approach roads could be better trimmed especially from the Thurles approach to give a good introduction to Upperchurch. The roads in the village are rather rough throughout – it may be that it has been agreed with the County Council to carry out such work but without details of future plans and your contact with bodies such as FAS and the County Council we were not aware of how the situation stands.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The adjudicator received the impression that there is some apathy and lack of movement at present in regard to further improvement in Upperchurch. This may be due to the Foot and Mouth troubles this year and also due to lack of planning and motivation of all the residents in the village, which is essential in order to achieve your goals. As stated at the beginning of the report, Upperchurch is a village of character and should continue to strive towards being the best it can be. We look forward to seeing progress in the future.