

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **COLLINSTOWN**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 25-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	13	14
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>198</b>

## **Collinstown, Co. Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Collinstown is an extremely attractive village which has plenty to offer. Great work has been carried out at Lough Lene and it is anticipated that renovations will continue in the village centre. In particular, a resurfacing of the parking area in front of the Maypole Bar and Daly's hardware would be welcomed. Improvements to footpaths would greatly enhance the village and help to create a sense of structure and increased definition.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Both the Maypole Bar and the Lough Lene Inn are well presented. At the time of inspection, Daly's Hardware was undergoing renovations. I look forward to returning when building is complete. The community hall, although well maintained is a little dull and unattractive. It would benefit from a facelift, using a more refreshing colour. Many congratulations on the new stone wall next to the hall. It is beautifully constructed and looks very well. The white derelict building on the opposite side would appear to have huge potential.. As ever, St. Mary's national school and the Catholic church are very well maintained with the beautiful grotto and floral displays. There is some dereliction on the entrance road from Delvin where a buildings windows are blocked-up and there is some graffiti on the wall opposite. Collinstown Motors on the Mullingar road is also in a state of disrepair. The signpost in the village centre is very overcrowded and quite difficult to read. Perhaps the signs can be more widely dispersed. It is good to see signs in both English and Irish.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The signs entering the town are nicely decorated with floral displays. Great work has been done in landscaping the village centre. I particularly commend you on the flowerbed boat which is well maintained and painted in very attractive colours. The green areas in the square are well manicured and enhance the impact of the tree, as the town's centrepiece. The picnic benches are a nice touch and fit into the surroundings very well. Some flowerbeds on the road to Fore have not been well looked after and need some attention.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Lough Lene is a wonderful natural amenity and it is great to see people using it. It has blue flag status and is virtually litter free. There is an excellent lakeside bathing area which is well maintained and the trees are maturing nicely. The area seems to be attracting plenty of visitors. The prohibition signs which dominate the car park appear to have little effect. There is ample car parking space, but its flowerbed is very overgrown and untidy and is spreading out onto the car park. The rubbish bins, although clean and empty are unattractive. I would recommend that the bins be replaced with a more traditional wooden style, in keeping with the environment.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter is virtually non-existent and bins are plentiful.

## **TIDINESS**

The area around the pump in the village centre has not been looked after. Weeds are spreading across the ground and encroaching onto the road. More should be made of the pump and it would greatly benefit from a repaint. I would also suggest that more is made of the seating area in front of Daly's Hardware to make it more attractive and more user-friendly.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The standard of housing is quite mixed. Collinstown suffers from a certain amount of dereliction. The housing estate on the Mullingar road has a mix of good and bad maintenance. Some gardens are very overgrown and untidy. The footpaths in this area are badly broken and need replacing. There is also a lot of building debris in front of a new house opposite the estate. Building work and restoration of the church along this stretch is ongoing. The window boxes belonging to houses in the square are very attractive and add great colour.

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

Generally the roads are in good condition. As already mentioned some areas in the square need resurfacing. It is unfortunate that so many overhead wires break up the skyline.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

There is a nice, open feel to the village and it has a peaceful, friendly atmosphere. Collinstown has much to offer with Lough Lene so nearby. The village is extremely attractive and climbing plants and more trees might be a welcome addition to enhance its rustic appeal.