

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **GLASSON**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 05-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	41
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>230</b>

## **Glasson, Co. Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Few villages in the country are blessed with such an attractive ambience or direct literary association as Glasson 'the Village of the Roses'. A perfect theme with a real meaning for Tidy Towns. Your plans to exploit the wider features of the surrounding countryside through this theme is excellent. Glad to read the new 5 year plan is due for publishing this year and we await it with interest, to see what your future plans are and it is hoped you enjoy even better results than those attained in the 1996/2000 edition

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

At the bridge the Glasson Village Restaurant looks very well. The Emo Garage is tidily presented with an attractive planter of shrubs. The plastic ice cream cone, however, should be removed. The private housing and gardens are attractively presented with good rose displays. O'Rourke's Fireplaces shop and forecourt is clean and tidily presented. Midland Health Centre looking quite well with tubs of roses to front, and the building recently painted. Garda Station looks very well with its trimmed lawns and trees. It is bordered by trees and shrubs. The Designer Pine building is fine if a little weeded in its small forecourt.

Both the Village Inn and Grogans pub are very nicely presented with rose gardens. The Village Tea Room is also well presented. The attached house is eye-catching with rose bushes behind railings. Backs of housing at entrance from low road need screening. The heritage centre which houses the tourist office is well presented with its lawns and shrubs.

### **LANDSCAPING**

At the northern entrance to the village the view of the bed of shrubs is hidden by a road sign. The Spollan Concrete factory is fairly well screened by a run of trees at its entrance. Lamp standards are in keeping with the village ambience and the underground cables contribute significantly to the streetscape. The entrance to the village from the Portlick side is affected by house construction resulting in broken boundary walls and fences. However, where there is mature housing, the frontages are well presented. Some gravel verges are showing weed. There is a maintained grass verge at the village nameplate but the rose bed is not yet in bloom. There is a very nice flower bed and railing, and line of mature trees opposite the Garda Station. At the junction of the Sweep, the Low and High road is a magnificent display of flowers, roses and a water pump. The rose theme continues from the impressive gates at the junction of the Sweep through a rose bed and a series of potted roses placed along the Sweep and main street footpath wall. Paths are all well maintained. At the phone kiosk, is a delightful feature seat and rose plantation.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The wildlife amenity looks very interesting but requires flora and fauna interpretation. The grass requires mowing and the planter weeding. There was some litter at this point. There is some Goldsmith and local information available along with a public information map in the Heritage Centre garden.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Glasson is almost litter free. Your litter programme is obviously achieving success. Keep up the good work.

## **TIDINESS**

There is some weed growth on the bridge at the wild life amenity. The residue of construction work in installing a new ESB transformer had yet to be cleared at the left hand side of the bridge. Some uncollected dead weed at Village Restaurant corner. The sign above the hairdressers is not in keeping with the village ambience.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There is a high level of restoration work on the village's properties. The terrace on the west side were noted. Unfortunately, no gardens are included in this development although there is room for potted plant displays. Plastic windows and modernity is replacing the traditional.

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

The approach from the Moate Road requires some maintenance. The road sign is completely overgrown and the amenity at the bridge requires grass cutting and the planter, weeding. The entrance from the Ballymahon side has a nice green verge with maturing trees. Verges on both could do with trimming. The entrance from the Athlone side is particularly good. There is a fine run of houses with mature and well kept gardens fronting onto a boundary wall, and well maintained verge and rose beds. Some nice trees maturing along this stretch.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Glasson is a beautiful village which presents very well. The tidy town effort is well planned and contact with the various influential bodies has resulted in high levels of co-operation. The main difficulties to be faced are how to control modern redevelopment which could affect 'ambience' and secondly and probably more urgent, how to address the chaotic heavy vehicle traffic movements through the village.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (05/08/01)**

The comprehensive appraisal of the village by the first adjudicator very accurately reflects the current condition of the village of Glasson. The very well kept grassed areas and rose borders are quite striking. The roses were at their peak at second adjudication. The area behind the original wall at the three new houses (behind the water pump) is in poor and neglected condition and responsibility for this area should be taken immediately. Where new building developments are undertaken a close watch should always be kept to ensure that developers do not leave the site until the surrounds are restored or arrangements are in place to rectify the

site. The hedge at the roadside "Failte" sign on the Benown Road is overrun with bindweed.