

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TUBBERCLAIR**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	26
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	11
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	15	15
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	165	162

Tubberclair, Co. Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

There was no plan as such included in the adjudicators brief. However it is evident that two major influences, the parish and the school have generated the highest levels of enthusiasm for the quality of life through improving the village environment. There is an exceptional interest in environmental matters displayed here. This is evidenced in the reconstruction of walls, the planting of open areas and the superb presentation of the school and its grounds. Signposting to Tubberclair could be improved as very little of the village is evident from the main road.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The new national school is magnificent. The playing field is cut and its surrounding fences are screened by developing hedging and trees. There is a beautifully maintained lawn with flowers and shrub beds. Features include a tree planted by President Mary McAleese in 1998 and water fountain which is in working order and contains a selection of identified water plants. The school wall extends the full length of the school building and fronts onto the car park which is very tidily presented. From the school car park there is a footpath in good condition bordered to the left by hedging. At the back entrance to the school there is a staff car park and a basketball court..

The feature building is the Church and its belfry. There was some lighting equipment at the belfry base which would provide a spectacular sight at night. There is a nice little thatched house opposite the church. There is a recently restored stonewall in front of the houses opposite the church. There are also fine new stone walls around the grave yard.

LANDSCAPING

The junction of the Tubberclair 'Church' road has floral and plant displays on both sides. These are very attractive and on one side includes a water pump. There are some broken walls on this road mainly due to housing development. The church and church car park look very well and new cut stone wall provides excellent definition. The church grounds are well maintained with small lawns and floral displays and flower barrels. The grave yard with its fine stands of ewe trees is very cleanly presented. It appears no use is being made of the old national school building which was subject to refurbishing. It looks in good condition but the garden and its metal sculpture to front left is completely overgrown. On the approach from the Ballymahon side the village nameplate sign is obscured by overgrown grasses.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Tubberclair is set in mainly open countryside with the natural wild flower and hedging. The garden of remembrance is an intriguing feature of plants, water pumps and stonework's. It is very attractive and has a full array both cultured and wild flora. It has a magnificent piece of bog oak in its lawn along with seats and tables. The garden

is surrounded by cut stone walls. The rural location of Tubberclair should provide many opportunities for suitable projects under this heading. In identifying projects seek the advice of ENFO - a public information service established by the Minister for the Environment and Local Government or contact your area wildlife ranger.

LITTER CONTROL

With the exception of a little litter up in the right hand corner of church car park, Tubberclair is virtually litter free and does not have a wirescape problem.

TIDINESS

In some cases footpaths have been treated with weed killer but there is an amount of un-collected dead weed and growth along the kerb stone. Developing building sites have weeded front areas not yet prepared for garden use. There is an attractive line of trees from the main road to the church but with road works in progress the road surface has been broken and road cones in evidence. Below the school is a house beside which is a developing junk yard of machinery. Molloy's garage is badly maintained with untidy presentation. There is a little builders debris inside the school wall.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses beside the school are nicely displayed with flowers and climbing roses. There are also well maintained lawns and plants which compliment the wild hedgerows nearby.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach to Tubberclair from the Athlone side has cut margins but the cut grass has been left in a series of small 'stacks'. This approach is not very well presented. The Church park surface is loose stone and the trees growing around the outside walls are maturing nicely. The footpaths and kerbs at the church are fine. To the left of the church is an open car park area with an attractive planter. Ongoing road works however is affecting presentation.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Tubberclair is a small community which needs identification signage to attract visitors to the village proper. It clearly invests in youth education policies which highlights appreciation for the environment. Keep up the work - well done!