

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TYRRELLSPASS**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	42
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	34
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	239	239

Tyrrellspass, Co. Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Tyrrellspass is a very attractive village with much to commend its developmental approach. Like a number of villages set along the main Dublin /Galway national route, major changes due to the construction of a new motorway will impact on its future social and economic life. Planning for its future is absolutely essential for the Tyrrellspass community to gain from this unique prospect and opportunity. While the village has had the amenity advantage of its green it is important that its old world ambience be maintained. Again this will need to be reflected in planning. Special consideration should be given for example to suitable lighting which would be more compatible with the green.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Overall the village is presented in an attractive manner. Painting of houses generally is fresh and colourful. Its presentation in two sections, the amenity area highlighted by the green and the commercial area which is generally placed along the western side of the village. The Midway Motor Works has changed hands and hopefully the frontage, including the removal of pumps, will rejuvenate its frontage. The terrace of single storey houses at the west end are quite attractive and the Maxol Service station has an old world like charm. The butcher shop, now closed, is somewhat unsightly. The B and B beside Village Inn Hotel looks very well with its superb garden. The RC Church is cleanly presented with shrubs around car park periphery. The Protestant Church and its grave yard overlooking the green are magnificently maintained. The school buildings are not in keeping with the green and consideration should be given to their screening by trees. St. Patricks Hall is fine though its colour scheme a bit garish. The Village Hotel, requires painting on at least one wall but otherwise looks well with maturing creepers and trees giving it an attractive character. Plastic fascia on Ryan's Hardware store should be replaced. Gouneau's Bar has an attractive frontage, but has inadvisably opted to expose cutstone. The Esker Inn while brightly painted has used unattractive plastic lettering on its fascia boards. The adjacent nursing home is very well presented with well maintained garden. Tyrrellspass Castle is well presented. There is a fine array of shrubs in planters in front of the car park which is well maintained. Two planted beds at the entrance to the car park could look particularly well but ill designed restaurant signs should be removed. The Curiosity Shop is full of interest with old world fascia and antiques on display.

On the Mullingar Road the Old Orphanage is in a bad state of repair but is subject to local concern as to its future development and usage.

LANDSCAPING

The green is the village showpiece and was well presented and being mowed during the inspection day. The trees on and surrounding the green are maturing beautifully and the water pump

feature with its white and yellow colour scheme is striking. The bell tower/clock house is delightful with its flower pots at either side of the steps. It was litter free and the only comment would be to look at installing a more compatible litter bin and public lighting design.

From the Dublin Road side, the first indication of a special 'tidy' village is met just after the road calming sign. There are fine plantations of shrubs and well kept walls and margins. On the right hand side there is timber fencing against which shrubs have now been planted to provide screening. There is a nice open grass area at Castle Green with seating, plants and trees and trimmed lawn. You might consider placing hedging in front of link fence for screening. At the Tullamore Rd. corner are well maintained grass verge with trees and seating. School grounds are perfectly clean although there is a little graffiti on the school wall. The virtual absence of any tree or plant life in the school grounds is a disappointment.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The wildlife area is a small garden beside St. Patricks Hall. It is a pleasant spot with trees, plants, a bird feeding station, and picnic seat. It will require further development before it could be regarded a wildlife area. It is more a lawn amenity in its present state. There is a grass area beyond the graveyard which was under going maintenance. This part of Tyrrellspass is very natural and suitable habitat for wildlife. It is recommended that specialist advice be sought.

LITTER CONTROL

There is a virtual absence of litter so your litter control programme is working well. There is an adequate supply of bins but on the day the adjudicator visited, the bin at the amenity beside Village Inn Hotel full to almost overflowing.

TIDINESS

Generally, Tyrrellspass has a tidy presentation but a section of the grassed area on the Mullingar road has some surface damage from underground cabling. From the Athlone side the car sales yard which uses the grass margin to display their cars should be discouraged. There are some ill positioned advance shop signs which should be removed. The wheely bins outside the Spinning Wheel side entrance should be removed or screened as should the deposit of cut stone 'blocks' in a corner of the Tyrrellspass Castle car park. The Emo Garage presents well but an array of 6 roadside signs virtually destroy any benefits from the planter display. A can of paint dropped on the road near the graveyard has been spread by traffic along a half mile stretch of road. Close to the school is a derelict building well screened with flower baskets, a seat and potted plants.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The housing on the Mullingar road is fairly mature with well kept gardens. Walls and fencing are in good condition. On the Clara Road is a terrace of new houses. This is a very attractive development in keeping with the size of the village. Each has a small planting area to front, a wall, and yet to be developed kerb side grass area. A nice

colour scheme of pastel shades. Sherwell Court is nicely presented. The plantings of shrubs and flowers work well but do need more regular maintenance.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Along the entrance road from Mullingar the grass verges have been cut and generally look fine. There is some kerb side weed and uncollected grass cuttings. The large directional signs on the Mullingar Road are set at an untidy location and are showing signs of traffic spray. Surprisingly, the grass margin to the right closer to the green is not well presented. Weed growth here suggests better maintenance required. There are well maintained grass verges on either side of the Rahugh corner and the nearby graveyard is neat and tidy with planters at entrance gate. Road surfaces throughout Tyrrellspass are good. Road signs and the sign for the battle of Tyrrellspass in both languages.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Like all towns and villages on the national Dublin Galway route, Tyrrellspass suffers the pressure of through traffic, much of it heavy goods vehicles. In the adjudicators experience, this was quite simply obtrusive and uncomfortable for pedestrians. The domination of the skyline by large lamp standards required to cater for passing traffic is detrimental to the quality of its streetscape. Future planning of the village must take the real prospect of a by pass motor way into account.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (05/08/01)

The comprehensive account given above at the first adjudication is very accurate. The second adjudication - on a Sunday morning was free of heavy traffic making for a much more pleasant environment. The simple formula of well-kept grass, trees and cleanliness is very effective both on the approach roads and on the greens. The cemetery is very well maintained, as is the surrounding area at the entrance. The cordyline trees at the grotto succumbed to last year winter and could be removed, as they are unlikely to recover. The clutter of signs at both Emo and Maxol stations seems unessential. The lawn dogs do not add to the attractiveness of the grass and many of them are broken. The large limes on the green were planted by past generations that could never have hoped to see them at maturity. Some similar planting for future generations would be welcome as one large tree contributes so much - the copper beech behind the Village Hall for instance.