

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ATTANAGH**
County : **LAOIS**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	23
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	181	180

Attanagh, County Laois

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Attanagh with its winding roads and old church buildings presents an interesting visual impact. It is clear that progress has been made in a number of areas to improve presentation and that much remains to be done. Some of the village approach work is well executed, but the central area, the Church, the ruin and the river, need considerable repair and access work to realise their potential. A plan to revitalise these village attractions is a primary requirement.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The walls surrounding the church to the left and opposite on the riverside to right are quite attractive. The Church holds good potential, but restorative work is required. Grass is growing from gutters and belfry, and windows need to be replaced. Almost all the houses surrounding the village have well presented lawns and in many cases their road frontages are well cared for. House in the centre of the village requires window frame repairs and repainting and the stone fronted house with yellow windows at corner would probably be better rendered.

LANDSCAPING

Nice to see a good number of tubs of flowers and some very fine gardens attached to private houses which added colour to village presentation. More could be made of village pump feature which had a plant to front. Post office displayed nice flower bed in its car park and the new trees planted on verge opposite looked very well. There is damage to a section of verge probably due to machinery movements. The fine mature trees, the attractive old world style house and the array of flowers at the bottom of wall frontage around the Abbeyleix road junction presents a good feature which should be further developed. The floral display over the church wall looks well. The plastics recycling company is fairly well, although not completely screened with mature trees.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Approach roads shows some very fine old natural hedging and trees, a natural wildlife habitat. Along with the river, Attanagh has an idyllic landscape in which wildlife thrives and their identification would do much to heighten the awareness and value of wildlife in attracting visitors to the village. Along with the Fly Fishing and Game Shooting Museum, the basics are in place to realise this prospect for the benefit of the community.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little evidence of litter as would be expected of a village of this size.

TIDINESS

Weeds and building materials should be removed from house frontages. The frontage to the old church (C.M. on map) is completely overgrown and consideration should be given to develop an amenity here which would also bring the river into the village experience.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential areas are of single detached buildings distributed around rather than in the village. Generally, their presentation was to a high standard and the quality of private garden was noted. There are a number of refurbishments taking place. Apart from the Irish Fly Fishing and Game Shooting Museum in Attana House all windows were blocked with timber. House on opposite side has some rebuilding extension work in progress.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach to Attanagh from the Durrow side has cut margins both left and right but on the left the grass cuttings have yet to be removed, probably due to weather conditions. The village sign is placed behind a small flower tub. The sign is bent and a little dirty. At the immediate approach to the village is a very nice amenity area with seating, flowers and shrubs, and hedging both right and left with cut verges. There is a stone village sign to right. The Abbeyleix approach to village is fine with cut hedges and trimmed margins. The remains of the old railway bridge form a fine entrance to the village with cut green areas on both sides and planted trees. Village signs from this side are clean and nicely presented.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Residents of Attanagh are doing considerable work on their own properties to improve village presentation. The potential of the village, its old church and ruin, the old railway line, and its wildlife attractions, is very real, and have to be planned, developed and promoted to be realised.