

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DURROW**
County : **LAOIS**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-08-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	41
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	22	23
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	35
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	232	231

Durrow, County Laois

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The levels of through traffic which pass through Durrow has an over-riding influence on the lifestyle of the village. It is a credit to the residents that the village has managed to retain its 'old world' character as evidenced by the preservation of its 'hallmark' square. Nevertheless progress is being made in improving the amenities and facilities within and surrounding the village to make Durrow a more attractive and entertaining place in which to live and visit. The work of the Tidy Towns Committee is commended in this regard.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Old Chapel St. and Carrigan St. have a number of attractive cut stone houses. The Garda Station looks well as does the Post Office which is nicely decked with hanging flowers. On the opposite side the courthouse requires repainting and the front railings require some repair and painting. A nice building, it could feature more strongly and we wish you well in your efforts to have it used as a heritage centre. The Square with its multi-faceted greens surrounded by 18th. century architecture is Durrow's 'showpiece'. It is very well presented with cut lawns, flowers, mature and semi mature trees, seating, litter bins and area map. For the most part buildings surrounding the Square maintain its early architectural style, but there are concerns in regard to two houses on Abbeyleix side left of green which are in need of repair and repainting, and a small number of shop front signs. Castle Hotel gates were well presented with hanging baskets and gates painted as are a number of houses and shops. Bianconi House to right of the Abbeyleix exit road is in an unfortunate state of dereliction. The ducting of wires in Patrick St. and Mary St. has opened the skyline in these areas.

LANDSCAPING

The Pound is well developed with seating and colourful plants. The adjacent ESB transformer station frontage, however, is untidy and not well maintained. The Grotto in St. Finians Tce., looks fine and it is understood additional work is planned here. Large industrial lamp standards are not in the general style of the town's presentation. The colourful amenity at Tae Lane, and the lamp post hanging baskets along Mary St. look very well.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Bridge and riverside walk are excellent. The Bridge is nicely dressed with period lamps, and flood lit. There is a good display of wild flower on bridge walls. The Road here need resurfacing. Fire station is well kept. A lot of new trees maturing nicely which, along with plants and indigenous hedging is a growing wildlife reserve. The Slip way has fine floral display set in redstone brick, and the riverside walk looks really well with its

timber bridge. There is still a problem here for disabled access. The potential of the nature trail and an Erkina River Wildlife Park is immense and every encouragement is given to the committee in their efforts in this regard. Interpretation for wildlife park is essential.

LITTER CONTROL

There was considerable litter in the Erkina River walk area and no litter bins in evidence. More regular attention here is required. There was marginal litter 'show' on the greens in the Square, but there were adequate litter bins in place

TIDINESS

On the Cork Road there is some dereliction. Good to see the set of recycling bins at the Statoil Station and also the shrubs in the planter in front of the station. Some attempt should be made to screen the IFI Storage depot. Four blue pallets and litter should be removed from Bridge area.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Nicely planted housing estate on approach from the Borris Road. The estate adjacent to St. Finians Terrace is well presented

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach from Borris in Ossory side looks very good, with fine display of cut verges, planted areas and trees right and left. The approach from Cork is very good with amenity area of trimmed grass and picnic tables, nice row of trees etc. trimmed margins left and right. At the Durrow Green sign unsightly fencing to the right should be screened with shrubs. On the left approach from Abbeyleix is a fine amenity with seats, tables, and new trees. The wall to the rear of the amenity is increasingly screened with foliage.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

General impression is of a very fine presentation with an active committee. Your plans for the wildlife and nature reserve, and survey are most encouraging.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (07/08/2002)

Despite your efforts derelict sites and buildings are still a problem - hopefully the Bianconi Inn might be restored before next year's competition. It is most encouraging to read of the proposed colour scheme for the town as much, despite excellent individual efforts and floral adornments, is quite drab. The standard of road surfacing varies considerably. Litter again was quite evident throughout the town centre and at isolated locations on both N8 approaches. Despite the poor summer the green and verges had

being well tended. Durrow is potentially a very fine town; with a little extra effort put into its enhancement by all the residents and business people great results could be reaped.