

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **EMO**  
County : **LAOIS**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-2002

|                                | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2002 | Mark Awarded 2001 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50           | 30                | 30                |
| The Built Environment          | 40           | 27                | 27                |
| Landscaping                    | 40           | 30                | 30                |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30           | 18                | 18                |
| Litter Control                 | 40           | 37                | 37                |
| Tidiness                       | 20           | 14                | 14                |
| Residential Areas              | 30           | 22                | 22                |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 40           | 32                | 32                |
| General Impression             | 10           | 8                 | 8                 |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>300</b>   | <b>218</b>        | <b>218</b>        |

# **Emo, County Laois**

## **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for details of work undertaken during the year. Emo is a delightful village and your attention to detail is having an overall effect on the presentation of the village. Well done on your litter programme. Although it was noted that two litter bins were full, there was no litter on roads or pathways, and the introduction of composters add additional support in this area. Your tree planting and landscaping priority for the next few years is excellent and will add yet another dimension to the presentation of the village.

## **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The school is painted bright yellow and looks clean and tidy. The newly restored wall fronting car park behind pub gives a physical structure to this end of the road. The derelict house on the roadway behind the pub requires screening. The Church is nicely presented with well proportioned trees and lawns. The gated garden and car park with shelters are fine reminders of earlier times when horse and carriage was the transport of the day. Watch for grass and beer cans in gutters. The M.O'Floinn shop front fascia is original and should be maintained. Wire fencing above stark wall of garden centre is not attractive. The Coolbanagher Church looks very well with its walled garden and flower boxes in its roadside car park.

## **LANDSCAPING**

Flower boxes and grassed area in front of Emo Court Gates were nicely trimmed and displayed. The Emo Garden Centre banner, although of a temporary nature, is somewhat out of proportion for a village of Emo's size. Approaches to the village are generally good. On the Portarlinton side of the village, verges on both sides are well kept and backed with hedging. The bank of trees within the Emo Estate provide a most impressive backdrop. This is a nice approach to the village with a number of mature trees at various points growing up through the hedges. There is a fine picnic area bordered with small yellow poles, fully furnished with tables and seating at the eastern approach to the village.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Public information map was not on display. This is a category where much can be done. Emo is rich in woodland and hedgerow habitats, walks and nature trails. Wildlife identification through display panels and literature for walkers and other visitors is recommended.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

As mentioned in the overall developmental approach your litter programme is working

well. Good to see your involvement with the school and in particular the involvement of the environmental officer in promoting more use of composers. On the day of visit the bin outside the post office was full; more frequent servicing is recommended.

## **TIDINESS**

Generally, Emo does not have a tidiness problem. However, there are a number of areas which were noted. The boundary wall at the GAA Park and the Community Centre is unattractive and landscape screening with plants is recommended. As indicated in your work programme Kennels Cross is showing considerable disturbance and your plans to upgrade this area will be a welcome improvement. The gates at Emo Estate have been painted and look well.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The entrance to the small housing estate close to school has nice flower boxes and the verge to the left has a mix of good and bad maintenance. There are some wildflower and trees growing to rear of the verge. In most instances the houses present well, although there is some reconstruction work ongoing. The new house is causing broken frontage near the school. In the village surroundings many bungalows were well presented, many with well maintained and colourful gardens. The access road to Emo from Coolbanagher Church side has a number of attractive small house styles on both sides.

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

Road resurfacing is taking place on the Portarlinton Road. There is a nice approach to Emo near Coolbanagher Church through a canopy of mature trees. The verge on the right hand side has been cut and has nice young trees and shrubs. Access from the eastern side of the village is attractive with the walls of Emo estate forming the right boundary, and mature houses and gardens the left. The verge to the left was not cut at Emo sign.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Emo is a special experience. Coolbanagher Church and Emo Court give it an unique place in Ireland's heritage. Your plans should be placed in the context of about a 3 year programme to identify the longer term ambitions of the committee.