

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SPINK**
County : **LAOIS**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	20	20
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	181	180

Spink, County Laois

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for details of your 3-5 year development plan. This helps put a perspective on what has been achieved and will provide guidelines for the future development requirements.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Within the village the farm buildings to right of the pub could be freshened. However, the remains of demolished building are still evident between the concrete and wire fencing. The Spink Bar looks well and it is nice to see the small flower bed at the corner of the building. The church and its grounds are nicely presented. The Church gates might do with painting. The school looks well. The garden and small shrubberies to the front are attractive. The walls are clean and while there is some evidence of weeds generally their presentation is good. Brown and cream colour scheme looks well. Knock Community Hall car park is reasonable, some weeds in evidence at recycling bins. Some freshening up is required.

LANDSCAPING

From the Carlow side the picnic amenity is very attractive. It features colourful flower boxes along the roadside edge, picnic table , seats, and shrubs. Verges require attention, however, the wildflower display is impressive. On the main road just opposite the church road exit is a small amenity with young trees and rough cut grass. Trees are maturing nicely. At the entrance road to the sports ground the presentation of the two open areas could be improved through the introduction of shrubberies. The sports field fencing requires some attention to deal with weed growth . The sports field itself and completed changing rooms look very well. The requirement here is the tidying up of grass margins.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There is good signposting in this area for walks and other attractions.

In particular Spink is commended for its interest in providing walking recreation for the visually impaired and for the Finwey Farm with its animal assisted therapy for children with special physical and social needs.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter seems to be well controlled. There was little evidence of litter on adjudication day and your clean up programme is producing results.

TIDINESS

The storage area for road surfacing materials on the Carlow side should be screened. The open area at the school turn was cut but its edges damaged by truck movements. There is still a problem with Glanbia. It is understood that security fencing is necessary, but visually the yard could be improved with natural screening.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The house to right is nicely presented with attractive garden. The row of small houses on the left hand side between the Spink Inn and the Church are all well presented, and in front of them, the roadside verges are well maintained. The house above school has beautiful garden with colourful floral display. Opposite the road exit to main road is a very attractively decorated gateway to a farmhouse. Some of the newer houses and their roadside walls need plant screening to overcome a sometimes stark appearance.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Church corner open green area requires tidying. To the right is a chain link fence overgrown with weed and there is kerb side weed along the footpath leading up towards the church. There is a 'Welcome to Spinks' sign at the bridge on the approach from Abbeyleix, but more on the Carlow side. Road surfaces are fine. Just beside the central bridge there is a floral display which could do with weeding.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Spink is quite an elongated village which presents a problem in establishing linkages between its widely dispersed elements. While it is understood footpath linkages are regarded as unsafe, there is an opportunity to achieve linkages through standardised bridge presentation.