

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **STRADBALLY-LAOIS**  
County : **LAOIS**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	17	17
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>211</b>

# **Stradbally, County Laois**

## **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Stradbally Tidy Towns Committee is to be commended for reaching the final year of its three year Tidy Town's plan. Much of its work for 2002 does not get underway until July onwards and no doubt more points could be gained if planning took account of June/July adjudication dates. Nevertheless, Stradbally has had considerable benefit from the Tidy Town Committee's undertaking of manageable projects from year to year. It is a most pleasant village to visit and has much of interest particularly in its historic connections with 19th. century industrial architecture and machinery.

## **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The trees towards centre of village give a welcoming introduction to the village. The Garda station looks fine and the trees along footpath past Credit Union Building are maturing well. Redevelopment work is ongoing at the stone works premise beside the Market House Square. Market House roof is in need of repainting. No doubt the grain mill with its unusual skyline silo will be recognised as an unusual example of 19th century industrial architecture while the Malt House on the opposite side has already achieved this status. It has been rejuvenated for apartment and commercial office usage. The Catholic and Church of Ireland churches, their surrounds and associated buildings are well presented. The small Methodist Church with its tidy frontage adds to Stradbally's peaceful atmosphere. St. Josephs School is attractively dressed with plants in its front yard. The Courthouse Green is a highlight attraction. It is surrounded by some relatively new housing on its east side and 'old' world buildings on the west. At the top end is the courthouse which also houses the library. This is a fine building but is not well maintained . It is in need of painting and grasses removed from its gutters. The garage beside the health board is badly presented. From the Carlow side a terrace of cottages along the left hand side are in disrepair.

## **LANDSCAPING**

There is a pleasant approach to Stradbally from the Portlaoise side. Verges are trimmed and dressed with colourful flowers. The grass in the green triangular area could be trimmed. Nice display of flowers in private house garden to right. The approach from the Carlow side is particularly attractive in that it gives a fine overview of the village against a backdrop of the Slieve Blooms. There are some pavement flower pots in the area of the Market House some of which require maintenance. The approach from the Athy road is a little untidy with uncut verges and broken boundary wall. Work was ongoing at the triangular green/flower bed on the corner of the Athy road.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

It is a pity more amenity use has not been made of the river

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The village has improved its litter problem although there was a small amount outside Ricos fast food outlet.

## **TIDINESS**

Recycling banks are signposted and placed behind the Market House. The Midland Health Centre Building needs refurbishing. Some heavy wirescape particularly near Garda station.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Oaklands is a nice small residential estate of semi detached bungalows. There is some kerb weed and the central green area requires trimming. There is a litter bin. The School on Glebe Road is more functional than beautiful. Residential housing on Athy approach is quite attractive with some fine gardens on display. The Woodview award winning estate has a planter of roses which requires weeding. The Gardens in Woodview are quite well kept. There is a central grassed area with stone wall surround. Casual parking of old tractor is unfortunate. At the entrance to the estate is a grassed area with trees, shrubs, and seats. While it looks well it could be better maintained.

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

Road works on approaches to the town were ongoing on adjudication day. Public light fittings are of the heavy duty kind and for a village of its size more decorative lamp fittings are recommended. Main street surface is in need of attention. The Courthouse Green grass area, which forms the central part of the green, is well presented with fine stands of maturing trees and shrubs. Grass had been cut but mounds of clippings awaited collection. The O'Higgins memorial is well presented. The wide main street looks well and attempts have been made by a number of commercial premises to dress it with hanging flowers. The entrance from the Timahoe Road is very attractive. The bridge announces the entrance, and there are fine old estate walls on either side. There is however a lot of weed growth in the kerbsides. From the 30mph sign there is a nicely cut verge and some young trees growing well.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Stradbally is an impressive village with much to offer the wildlife enthusiast both within the village and the surrounding mountain, forest and lowlands. Architecturally, the village has a number of interesting buildings which require specific presentation and it is recommended that advice be sought in this regard.