

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TIMAHOE**
County : **LAOIS**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	26
The Built Environment	40	23	24
Landscaping	40	24	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	191	191

Timahoe, County Laois

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Timahoe is in urgent need of a 3 to 5 year development plan. Timahoe has outstanding historic and cultural qualities. The Green plays a central role in creating the village ambience and commendable work has been done in its presentation. It is recommended that greater consideration be given to ways in which the Round Tower can be drawn into the village 'experience'. Apart from providing a progression of activities leading to an agreed vision of village development, it would help protect your fine heritage.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The school out on the Stradbally Road looked particularly well with nice window flower boxes and grounds. The Health Board premise which fronts onto the green was cleanly presented but lacks architectural design quality. The old Church of Ireland, now the Willie Headon Memorial Library, is an attractive building, but requires better maintenance. Grass is growing from gutters. Much could be done to improve the presentation of Timahoe Round Tower. Some access mowing through the wildlife sanctuary grasses was taking place during visit, but vandalism is apparent with broken floodlight. Access bridge from green to tower area is very nice with its over head lamp. The nearby ruined church looks well but requires interpretation. RC Church grounds look fine. Lawns are well maintained and there are some nice shrubs and rose bushes. The planters at car entrance gates require maintenance. Attractive Marian grotto at entrance. Gates appear due for painting. Around Delaney's Hardware shop is an attractive display of flowers which help dress the building. The Tower Bar looks quite well with neat barrel ended seat and window flower boxes. Kerrs is disappointing, and Buggys with its array of caravans, is a real problem even though some pots of flowers have been placed at the petrol pumps. The house between Kerrs and Keitleys has nice presentation with its painted railings. The infill with maturing trees works well. The sign above Keitleys could be improved but the premises does display some colourful flower boxes.

LANDSCAPING

The large open green is impressive with well maintained lawn, groups of maturing trees, shrubs, its recently painted central gazebo, seating and monuments. The triangular area to right of health board building has been trimmed, but grass clippings need to be removed from hard surface area. The area behind the Health Board needs attention. The water pump and famine pot on the green is a nice feature with its surrounding flower bed and painted railings. Edges of the green have been treated with weed killer and display a brown colouring. The development of the green along the Delaney Hardware side is disappointing. Architecturally, none of the new buildings are in sympathy with their surroundings, their disjointed siting is also somewhat confusing.

The display panel detailing walks and trails requires cleaning. There is some wirescape but in general it is not too bad.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Timahoe and its delightful surroundings has much to offer in terms of wildlife habitat. The sanctuary in the Round Tower grounds and the adjacent river appear perfect locations, but an audit of what and where wildlife can be seen is necessary.

LITTER CONTROL

There were some isolated shows of litter but generally, the town was quite free of litter. The amount of waste bins was adequate.

TIDINESS

There were toy wheels lying in the river. Some cleaning and weed removal is recommended. At the approach to basketball court is an old dilapidated house which has serious weed growth. The gates to the basketball area need painting and stone heap in front of walls should be removed but generally this area is clean and tidy. St. Brigid's Hall sign could be renovated.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The little housing estate off the Stradbally Road has broken paths, but some work has been done with flower boxes along right hand side. Flower Boxes have been watered. Well done, new residents committee making an impact.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Good approach to village from Stradbally side with school and maturing trees. Sign post for Timahoe is a bit overgrown. Trimming of roadside growth is recommended. Swan road approach has cut verges and maturing trees on right. There are weeds between the footpath and road on left. The plant display which screens the wall was noted. Some clean up work has taken place and some ivy remains need to be removed. The approach from the Portlaoise Road starts with an attractive bridge and it is at this point the verges are cut. There is a beautiful avenue of trees which run all the way up to the square. To the right of the bridge is the remains of an old mill which could offer an opportunity to restore 19th century agricultural/industrial architecture. At the farm gate to right is a fine display of wild roses which along with the trees screens what would otherwise be uninteresting walls of farm buildings.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Timahoe has a wonderful attraction in its Round Tower. Unfortunately, it seems to be hidden from the village rather than playing a central part in its presentation. The bridge

over the river is nicely presented but its surroundings are essentially the back yards of houses and business premises. The development of the wildlife sanctuary in the Tower grounds needs wildlife interpretation.