

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KNOCKBRIDGE**
County : **LOUTH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-08-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	30	30
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	27	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	244	242

Knockbridge, County Louth

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Many thanks for your comprehensive plan and your map. The information included gives a good insight into the work that has been carried out over the past number of years culminating recently with the completion of Stephenstown Pond. The village is now the focus of work and this is improving each year – well done.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

St. Mary's Church is a fine building and both it and the carpark opposite are exceptionally well presented. The oak trees will provide for future generations. McNamees Pub is also a fine building though a pile of tarmac beside the carpark required removal. The factory on the Dundalk Road needs some attention and a lick of paint should be considered. Brodigans had not been completed no doubt due to the recent poor weather though will contribute to the village when complete. The school and cemetery were neat and looked well though the Community Hall (Knockbridge Boys School) would be enhanced by some planting as it did look quite grey on the day of adjudication. McNamees Top Petrol Station needs some attention to detail – some of the signs required cleaning.

LANDSCAPING

Knockbridge is well landscaped throughout. The village pump would look better if more suitably painted perhaps in a traditional dark colour. When replacing hanging basket containers, consider the use of more natural materials such as basket; even wire as the white plastic detracts from their presentation.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Stephenstown Pond and amenity area is a joy to behold and an example for many communities around the country. The history of its development and the work in maintaining it is highly commendable. The carpark was busy and the playground thronged with children. Others were feeding the four cygnets and their parents – well done. Access for the disabled is commendable and the informative wildlife signs are welcome though are becoming slightly faded in places.

LITTER CONTROL

There was remarkably little litter around on the day of adjudication (a couple of pieces at the pond) and some one tidying the amenity area in Stephenstown Pond. You seem to be on top of the problem though it is still an area that will require monitoring in the future especially with the numbers of people who visit the pond.

TIDINESS

The village and pond area were generally tidy on the day of adjudication. The use of the green machine to collect rubbish bins and an ethos focusing on recycling perhaps in conjunction with the craft element of the centre (the use of recycled materials) should be considered.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The small enclave of cottages on the road from Stephenstown Pond looked well though much of the landscaping was annual in nature (tagetes) and had suffered due to the weather. Here is a good example how mixed planting should be considered in order to provide form and colour in and out of season what ever the weather. The new houses, individually designed are imposing and bring character to the area. Cluan Anna unfortunately is still not complete though hopefully by next year the required person/authorities will have cleared up the site. The old slates on the cottage on the corner beside the pub make a nice feature.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Newtown Road was under repair at the time of adjudication, however further out it was well maintained. The Dundalk approach road was well cut back far out from the village and there was a good lead in. Many of the trees along this stretch did look unhappy and consideration should be given to replacing those that are dying/ dead.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Knockbridge is progressing well in the competition. Attention to detail is required and the judges look forward to the completion of the housing schemes and the roadworks, both of which will enhance the village further. Best of luck.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (02/08/02)

Because of the importance of Stephenstown Pond to the village it is considered that the roadside treatment should be extended from the village - not necessarily in a manicured manner but such that a visual link is created; in particular many hedges would benefit from an overhaul in the autumn. Field gates too in some cases need attention. The green on the righthand side of the Stephenstown Road approach was much appreciated. There was a scattering of litter along the roadside at the GAA grounds. Some road signs were in need of cleaning. The main village green with its mature trees is an essential part of the village and was appropriately tended - however the poorly treated entrance to the new residential area opposite detracted somewhat. Indeed weedy kerbsides seem to be a problem in residential areas and are not acceptable at your level in the competition. The rust stains on the Boys National School are unfortunate. The Newtown Road, having recently being resurfaced, was much

improved. Cheerful paintwork created a welcome brightness on a grey morning. To reiterate the final comment of the first adjudication it is attention to small details just as much as the larger undertakings which is so important to gaining extra marks and creating a better environment for you the residents, and visitors.