

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **REAGHSTOWN**
County : **LOUTH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	213	209

Reaghstown, County Louth

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Many thanks for the copy of the map and the synopsis of the development plan for the next three years. The village shows obvious effort and care and also a love of trees, shrubs and plants. The way that the village was presented demonstrated great commitment by the community.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The buildings were generally well presented. The church is a focal point and looked well on the day of judging. The graveyard was also neatly kept and looked well. The Western Football ground evidently had some ongoing work – there is a superb basketball and tennis court though the area around the park and the carpark required some tidying up – invariably this could be tackled in a few hours or over a weekend and would make a tremendous difference. The Danny Boy Inn would benefit from some colour or some planting closer to the building to break up the expanse of the carpark. A pallet board beside the Inn required removal though it seemed as though some work was being undertaken.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping in Reaghstown has achieved a high standard and most of the foliage and flora were happy and healthy in their environment. The landscaped area just off the N2 was very pleasant and was well maintained. Throughout the village there was obvious care and especially pleasing was the planting around the carpark in the village. The use of permanent /perennial planting certainly benefited this year as the weather was not kind to bedding plants.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Valuable additional marks are possible under this section if a strategic wildlife plan can be developed for the village. There are a myriad of habitats – hedgerow/field that could be assessed and wildflowers encouraged. Encouragement and management are required and this could be applied to the development of the walk along the road beside the Danny Boy Inn.

LITTER CONTROL

The main village was virtually litter free on the day of adjudication though some litter was seen in the carpark of the GFC. Perhaps a notice in the GFC might help as litterbins were in evidence.

TIDINESS

The village was generally tidy on the day of adjudication though attention to detail is required in a village of this size

e.g. a rusty pole in the centre of the village stood out and a blue barrel up the lane beside the church. Some of the hedges did require a trim though work had started on this and the weather was certainly not conducive to completing the task.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses all showed pride in their presentation – well done. The small enclave of houses in the village was well-painted and sported nice baskets and flowers, which brightened a grey summer's day. The cottage on the corner opposite the church looked very well and the planting enhanced its prime position in the village. There were also some nice touches – e.g. the red geranium by the red painted shutters on the corner opposite the church.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All lead in roads were well maintained. Signs are still required on some roads though the wooden signs did look well. Please – more signage is required in the surrounding area – the only sign spotted was that on the N2; arriving from the north or east proved problematic.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village though small shows a determined effort by the local community to present itself to best advantage. There is evidence of community spirit. In future years concentrate on the wildlife section, signage and finishing off the GFC. Good luck.