

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TUBBER**
County : **OFFALY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	226	221

Tubber, County Offaly

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The enthusiasm and commitment of the people of Tubber to improving the appearance of the village is evident by the amount of work carried out and indeed by your successful efforts to fund raise after the theft of all your equipment including ride-on lawn mower. Well done to all. The adjudicator read with interest the documentation submitted with your entry form. The clear map was a great help and much appreciated.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Tubber is a small village with relatively few buildings. It is good to see that the population is growing, that a new school is planned and that a considerable number of new houses are in the pipeline. It is important that the style and layout of any housing scheme is consistent with the rural nature of the village. The Church, School and Hall are satisfactory. The colour scheme of the Cat and Bagpipes brightens up the area.

LANDSCAPING

For such a small community, the quality of maintenance of the lengthy and wide grass margins especially on the main road is impressive. You are also to be congratulated on your flower beds and shrubberies especially on the main road, at the Kilfoylan junction, at the car-parking area at the Church and the Cat and Bagpipes, etc. The rose garden is also praiseworthy. The treatment of the parking area in front of Church and around the Cat and Bagpipes has considerably improved what otherwise could be a bleak expanse of tar. However you must be careful to have a co-ordinated approach to planting. Too many different sizes and styles of beds and plants can be over-fussy.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Where possible trees and shrubs should be native species as these are unusually more appropriate for a rural setting as well as providing a more natural habitat for wild life.

As mentioned in last years report, pyracantha, while not native, is decorative all through the year and its berries are a valuable food source for birds. The pyracantha looks well on the G.A.A. boundary wall and on several other walls in the vicinity. Your plans for a new Parkland amenity at the Ballycumber Road junction are noted. It is also noted that you are reviewing your plans, if the project goes ahead you should ensure that it involves low maintenance.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control continues to be good with little or no litter visible throughout the village on the day of inspection.

TIDINESS

Neatly cut grass verges especially on the main road, attractively presented flower beds and buildings in good condition generate a tidy and cared for appearance. Negative aspects include weedy gravelled margins and side road verges not of the same standard as those on the main road.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the houses throughout the village are well cared and several have attractive gardens. However several weedy entrance and boundary areas were noted. Painting would also improve the appearance of some of the roofs of out buildings.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The quality of the grass verges and shrubberies particularly on the main road has been commented upon. The row of trees on either side of the main road further enhances its appearance. The new wooden fencing on the Ballycumber Road junction approach looks well. The extensive planting on the Moate side of the village will in time screen the unattractive wire fencing, however additional planting is still required at lengthy stretches of wire fencing. The concrete fencing at the junction of the main road and the Old Tubber Road is unattractive. This fence should either be painted or camouflaged by spot planting. Improvements can be made to the standard of maintenance of verges on the Old Tubber Road and also the cemetery road. Weeds were noticeable in several gravelled margins throughout the village. Re-gravelling or re-surfacing would also help. The village name signs are most appropriate in the form of a stone well with slate roof.

GENERAL

Flower beds and other features can be overdone. Maintenance will always be a problem. Concentrate on the side roads and the finer points of presentation. As you move up the marking scale additional marks will be much harder to gain.