

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RIVERSTOWN-KILLEEN**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	35
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	30	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	28	29
Tidiness	20	13	14
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	211	214

Riverstown-Killeen, Co Tipperary

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the completed entry form, letter outlining difficulties for the committee and accompanying map. As one who grew up in a rural village I can empathise with your concerns about the decline of your village but I would encourage you to keep positive because you still have got such an attractive place to live in and would be the envy of many. It is good to see that there is still a strong relationship with both the Local Authority and the state agencies like FAS. The Committee of 5 is to be commended for its efforts to date and the village would not look as well if you as a committee had not been so active.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Village of Riverstown has very special appeal to any one that passes through; it has an attractive focal point in the Bridge over The River Brosna, a little tricky to negotiate at peak times but that does not take away from it. Stonewalls are numerous in and around the village and some are in excellent condition while others need to be repaired and the Village pump needs to be repainted. Both business premises and private residences, including a few new very impressive Georgian type houses, were presented to a very high standard. It seems that the galvanised roofed house on the North side of the village is no longer a B&B. It would be unfair to highlight any of these except to say that most owners are doing their very best to keep the good image of Riverstown to the forefront.

LANDSCAPING

There are some excellent examples of planting arrangements to be seen in the village and its surrounds. For instance the river access amenity, which was put in place some years back is now complemented by a nice and appropriate planting scheme. The landscaping at the Riverbank Restaurant and Bar was up to its usual standard although the beds need to be tended too. There are some lovely private gardens in the village such as the one adjacent to the river access and indeed some out the Portumna road. Once again residents of Riverstown are to be commended for their efforts.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The feeding of duck and swans by the committee is something that is welcomed, the area around the river is a haven for other forms of wildlife. This area would be a good starting point for a wildlife project, the committee should consider seeking the advice of some local wildlife enthusiast and involve the local school in a mini project. A notice or information board identifying species of birds and other wildlife associated with that part of the Region would be a start. Then one may

consider a wildlife sanctuary in the future years ahead.

LITTER CONTROL

The Village was free from litter and this again is due to the combined efforts of committee and community alike.

TIDINESS

The village has a tidy look to it with a few exceptions, Eircom need to be approached to do something about the condition of the phone box. The farmyard on the Portumna, which was earmarked for attention last year, has improved its appearance significantly. The shabby gates opposite to what was once the farmhouse (B&B) are still in a bad condition. The appearance of road signs into the village has improved at least they are legible.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The village is the main residential and was for the most part well presented as such. Frontages and side areas were maintained to an acceptable standard. It would be fair to say that Village does need a little lift in terms of colour While the Committee bemoan the fact that Riverstown is fast becoming an elderly village I would contend that there is far more potential to the place than people think. Maybe it does need a few younger families to come in and this should be encouraged.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads were well maintained with verges and hedgerows cut back as recommended in the Tidy Towns guidebook. While it is still not up to the standard of both the Birr and Nenagh roads the Potumna Road has improved significantly since last year.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There seems to be a concern amongst the Committee that Riverstown/Killeen is falling back because of the fact that it has lost two its most important focal points. I would contend that there is much to do in the Village it has performed well in the competition to date and there is no reason why this cannot be continued. It is important to revise links within the Community itself and also with other organisations and the local authority. Riverstown /Killeen looked very well on adjudication day. Just as a matter of interest the Irish name Baile Ui Lachnain-Cillín sounds much more appealing.