

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **STRADBALLY-WATERFORD**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	41
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	37	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	25
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	37	37
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	263	257

Stradbally, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Once again, thank you for all the information sent with the entry form, plan, and map which was most useful on adjudication day. Sincerest congratulations are to be extended to you on being nominated as one of Ireland's entries in this year's Entente Florale Competition. It is a great honour to be selected for the second time. It is noted also that this is also your 21st Anniversary, another significant milestone. Your plan has been carefully read and your comments noted. Over the period of the plan, try to identify what you can do on a year to year basis within your physical and financial resources. In this respect, it is encouraging to see that you continue to have the support of Waterford County Council, FÁS, South East Tourism, An Taisce and other organisations, including the Probation Welfare Service. Your Geo Park Study and your involvement with Copper Coast Tourism are also to be highly commended.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As in the past, your Schools, Churches, Credit Union, GAA Centre, Garda Station and public toilets were all very well presented on adjudication day. The inside of the public toilets are probably in need of refurbishment. Ballyvooney Cove and Stradbally Cove looked very well and are also being very well maintained. The Recycling Centre is a valuable addition to your efforts. The establishment of the Slí Sláinte Walk and supporting signage is a further valuable addition to the infrastructure of the village. The heritage sundial, picnic table and heritage information panel were not there on adjudication day. It is expected that these will be provided later in the year. Cove Cottage is unique and is being beautifully maintained.

LANDSCAPING

Planting which has taken place in the past is now maturing very nicely and has created a wonderful ambience in the village. New flowerbeds were seen and your comments regarding the planting of these for the Entente Florale Competition has been noted. The Water Garden looked very well. On adjudication day, a number of open spaces needed cutting but again, and great credit to all concerned, at least three mowers were to be seen in action. Open spaces in housing estates and on approach roads are being well maintained. On the Dungarvan Road however (not too far from the Church) grass growing on the tops of otherwise very well kept stonewalls was a bit unsightly. Some lovely new planting was noted in the vicinity of the Handball Alley and it looked extremely well. Congratulations are due to all concerned with this wonderful landscaping effort.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Ballyvooney Glen is an ideal place for such a project. On adjudication day, the site was visited. Unfortunately there was no sign of wildlife, but one can well imagine that it does exist. Perhaps the positioning of a wildlife information board in the car park would help.

LITTER CONTROL

The village was practically litter-free on adjudication day. There was, however, some evidence of minor littering in some of the housing estates (mainly plastic bottles) and also at Ballyvooney Cove.

TIDINESS

The village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner and reflects great credit on your Community. Extensive building works were noted and the natural untidiness associated with them has been allowed for. Commercial properties in the village were very well presented, of which Whelans and O'Cuirrin are fine examples.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

People in Stradbally are obviously very proud of their residences. Individual houses throughout the village are being very well maintained, many with delightful gardens which become more impressive every year. This is a great reflection on their interest in the environment in which they live.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces and paving are in very good condition. However the roads to Stradbally Cove and to the Church of Ireland are badly in need of repair. Approach roads were very nicely presented but, in wet weather, and throughout the adjudication period, these would need to be monitored regularly. The car park at the GAA Centre looked a little rough and perhaps this could be attended to.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

As usual Stradbally is a lovely place to visit and exceptional work is being done this year. Once again Happy 21st Anniversary and best wishes for the Entente Florale Competition. You are doing excellent work and great credit is due to all concerned.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (03/08/02)

In spite of the poor summer, floral displays and landscaping were truly remarkable in Stradbally in early August. In fact, the second adjudicator was overwhelmed by the profusion of blossom! There has been a great deal of housing development since this adjudicator last visited two years ago, and it was very encouraging to see young trees and shrubs already planted.

It is a real pleasure to comment upon the new sculptural group celebrating the geological heritage, as it was not in place at the time of first adjudication. The concept and execution is artistically striking, the inscriptions and inset samples are informative, and the table and seating are useful.

In this case, art and practicality go hand in hand. The quality of the total design is exceptionally high, as one would expect in Stradbally. Congratulations on this and on the achievement of your 21st anniversary also go hand in hand.