

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SCOTSTOWN**
County : **MONAGHAN**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	22	21
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	9	9
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	171	166

Scotstown, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the completed questionnaire and very detailed map - both very much appreciated by the adjudicator. The need for a 3/5 year work programme is very necessary if you are to improve your rating in the competition. This programme should be influenced by previous reports and have the support of the local authority. Continue to develop your excellent working relationship with voluntary groups and state agencies. A work programme will create a real focus and expedite progress.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Some progress has been achieved under this heading and the restoration work at McCauges is most welcome. The Church, School, and GAA Park are all presented well - the Church grounds are well cared for and tidily presented. The use of natural stone in the area of the bridge is commended and should be encouraged in other areas of the village. Some buildings are in need of paint work. Fresh paint can enliven the presentation of buildings. With a wide choice of materials and finishes now available, there is great scope for the imaginative use of colour. An enhancement programme for buildings should have a priority rating when deciding on next year's work programme.

LANDSCAPING

The village green and planted areas were again well presented this year. The green has matured nicely in recent years, however, regular maintenance is very necessary to ensure that it's overall presentation is attractive at all times. Continue to encourage the greater use of stone for boundary walls, ornamental features etc and promote the use of shrubs and perennial flowers in open spaces. Investigate a landscaping programme for the river area.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The map outlining the proposed nature walks and picnic areas for Scotstown is most welcome. Hollywood lake was much in use on adjudication day, reflecting the importance of this activity facility in the life of the community. The proposal for a butterfly area is most interesting and awaited with great interest by this adjudicator. New signposting is desirable to highlight the many historical and archaeological sites in the area and this should be progressed in consultation with Monaghan County Council. Nature and historical trails will enhance greatly the appeal of Scotstown

and encourage visitors to stay longer. Scotstown has an attractive and very rural setting and an environmental programme highlighting the wildlife habitats of the area should not be too difficult.

LITTER CONTROL

Scotstown was free of litter on adjudication day except for incidental litter in the area of the green. Your litter awareness programme is obviously working well. Improve the presentation of litter bins and ensure refuse is collected on a regular basis. Untidy and poorly presented bins detract greatly from the overall presentation of Scotstown.

TIDINESS

Scotstown presents a tidy appearance, however, the river area was disappointing - can the river banks be tidied up and made more attractive. The green and colour planting adds greatly to the presentation of the village. A good performance under this heading has been rewarded with an increase in marks.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most residential properties were very well presented, with landscaped gardens and the sensible use of shrubs and flowers. The green area in front of the housing estate on the Monaghan Road was also tastefully presented - well done to all concerned. The new housing scheme beside the Church was noted and hopefully when complete will enhance greatly this approach to the town with an attractive landscape to include planting and tidily presented boundary areas.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads were presented well, however, there is still a need to freshen up signposting and trim verges and hedging on a regular basis. The new footpaths in the village are a big improvement and do much to enhance the environmental presentation of Scotstown in tandem with the well maintained green.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This adjudicator detects a new found enthusiasm in Scotstown. The proposals as outlined to develop nature walks and picnic areas are most encouraging and awaited with great interest. Please refer to the Tidy Towns Handbook for further advice and guidance, you will find it of great benefit in putting together next year's work programme.