

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	28
The Built Environment	40	21	20
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	25	23
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	19
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	183	181

Scotstown, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed application form and very helpful map. Under this heading the committee are requested to submit a proposed work programme incorporating the various aspects of the competition headings for the village. A clear and concise 3/5 - year working plan, outlining achievable targets for the committee, both focuses your objectives and sets the scene for the adjudicator. Working with local relevant bodies as you plan is always a practical and beneficial exercise. It is unfortunate that you do not have the full co-operation of your expanding community, perhaps you could promote the work and future plans of the committee as a benefit to all residents.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Some business premises look well maintained and are nicely presented. Rossmore furniture looked very well as did the butchers shop and the supermarket. In its focal position in the village it needs to be aware of how storing and displaying material outside may appear untidy and interfere with access. The church in its lovely tree lined setting, GAA pitch and school all looked well. However there are some premises that could tidy their appearance, quite simply in some cases.

LANDSCAPING

The green area is the centre focal point of the village and would make many other entrants envious. While the grass looks well, the shrub beds here need attention as does the fine pump and railing. The committee could consider a village colour scheme for the bins and benches that also need their paintwork refreshed. The perennial planting at the GAA pitch was noted and there are some lovely hedges and walls and varied tubs throughout the village. Many house holders have some lovely landscape features that add to the overall impression of the village. There is a lovely row of chestnuts and copper beeches at the bridge and there are many attractive trees planted throughout the village and on the approach roads. Some lovely climbers caught the eye on the wall outside the old cemetery.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The wildlife park is a feature many other competitors would be envious of, with its varied and protected trees and bilingual labels. Perhaps the committee may consider suitably enhancing it further with some wildflower planting that would encourage butterflies, some bird \ bat boxes and perhaps some appropriate information boards. Convenient to the school and village this was a visionary project hopefully enjoyed by all the community.

LITTER CONTROL

There was sporadic litter on the main street at the school and on the Tydavnet road. The other approach roads and estate appeared to be almost litter free. There was also some litter in the Church car park and Wildlife Park. Some bins in these busy amenity areas could alleviate this, though your varied bins were plentiful elsewhere throughout the village. Your weekly clean ups and awareness programme are commendable. Consider involving the local school in future plans.

TIDINESS

Good housekeeping and attention to detail should be the committees' goal in this section. There are some properties in the village that could improve their appearance with some simple cosmetic tidying, similar to that used on the house past the church. The river was clean but the committee might consider clearing the smaller area beside the bridge, which has become a storage area for signs and debris. Some effective screening gates were noted but there remain some open or back areas that could be screened. The visible storage area/ yard at the rear of the butcher shop and pub for example.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many homes throughout the village and on the approach roads looked very well maintained with some lovely flower features, lawns, hedges and tidy boundaries adding to the whole appearance in the village, well done to all involved.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There is a mixed standard of road surface on the approach roads to the village. However tidy verges, some lovely tree planting and nicely faced hedges, were noted on the Smithborough road. Some sign posts need attention, some just need a repaint. The Village Tramway verges could be tidied like the approach roads without compromising the flora and fauna. The hedges on the Monaghan Road were recently cut and I would be concerned about the timing of this. Perhaps the committee should consult the Tidy Towns handbook (page 110) or the ENFO handout regarding the care of hedgerows and their contribution to conserving wildlife. Road works were going on during adjudication and hopefully this may result in some new road surfacing throughout the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

With its many positive features as a foundation and expanding population to draw support from, the committee could effectively re-launch their efforts and further expand on the success's they have achieved to date. Attention to detail and perseverance will

optimise your fine villages full potential. The ingredients are there, well-done and good luck.