

...The revelation of the lime kiln must have been a wonderful bonus! The provision of bird boxes, an insect hotel and the sowing of wild flowers are all commendable. Good luck in your development of other walks in the locality.

**Sustainable Waste and Resource Management** - It was good to hear that a member of your committee had participated on the master composting course. We were pleased to hear that you have restored the water tank below the community centre and its use for plant watering purposes will be a great asset to your work. The participation in the county council workshop relating to sustainable waste and resource management is commendable. The encouragement of walking rather than taking the car is another laudable achievement - well done to all concerned! The recycling area was very well maintained in the village centre.

**Tidiness and Litter Control** - Generally the village was well maintained with the odd item of litter noted along approach roads. Agricultural yards etc... could be screened from public view, if possible. Don't forget boundary walls when considering overall presentation. These are difficult to manage in the location that Cullohill is in on the main road. The old substation should be repainted before next year. Congratulations on your participation in Clean Up Laois Week and your encouragement of the local schoolchildren to become involved. Your re-entry into the competition in recent years after a number of years absence is commendable.

**Residential Streets & Housing Areas:** There is good housing stock generally in the village. Houses in the village centre and along approach roads were generally very well maintained. An attractive house, garden and unusual gate were noted near the Rathdowney junction on the N8 road. A yellow cottage in the village centre could be repainted before next year's competition. The abandoned cottage opposite the community centre has been white washed and windows boarded up. Parknahown was generally well maintained as was Ballynevin, where the milk churns made an attractive display. The townland signs are a wonderful asset. The seat - partially funded by Foroige was admired at Parknahown. It's good to hear that you offer practical help to local households in order that they can keep their properties looking as well as possible.

**Approach Roads:** Due to its location on the busy Portlaoise to Cashel stretch of the N8 motorway, the committee has a hard task keeping and maintaining the village to its best advantage. Approaches were generally attractive and well maintained, with the odd minor outbreak of litter. The planting, verges and hedges along the Portlaoise road have been noted elsewhere in this report. The new trees are maturing nicely. Speed controls could be considered along the main road. New hedging on the Cashel road was coming along well. Generally, roadways were well maintained given the difficulties Cullohill has in terms of its location.

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