

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **URLINGFORD**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	27
The Built Environment	40	29
Litter Control	40	29
Tidiness	20	15
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	300	208

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

This adjudicator had not been in Urlingford for some years, and was much impressed by the recent improvements. (It used to be a town you "passed through: now it is a pleasant place to stop). The co-operative support from other groups in the area as described in your answers to the questionnaire is impressive; similarly, your contacts with the official bodies and your use of the FAS youth employment scheme. Your map is particularly lucid and helpful. Continuation of developmental schemes will be eagerly observed.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This new entry was responded to in Urlingford better than in most other centres, and the marking will be higher than elsewhere in the county. The ducks were indeed noted at the Goul garden, enjoying aquatic life. Signposting of the restoration project at the Mill Graveyard would encourage visitors; perhaps you intend to rehabilitate this whole area, including the riverside at this point, and the castle, in the fullness of time? It could become a real attraction.

LANDSCAPING

Planting of open spaces was particularly admired, especially at the junction of the Johnstown and Freshford roads. In your planting, consider more shrubs and perennials, as these have a longer life and do not require the maintenance of bedding plants - some of which seemed the worse for passing traffic. You might also consider more tree-planting, even if outside the immediate area of the competition: for example, the straight road towards Cashel is rather bleak at present. New flowerbeds were favourably noted at the points shown on the map. Planing on Togher road is of high quality - but post-and-wire fencing has a very short life.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Court House and Library, the most distinguished building in Urlingford, has now come into its own; congratulations to those who designed and carried out the paving, installation of street-furniture and laying out of planted areas. The Church opposite was also very well looked after, with a fine display of roses on adjudication day. A derelict site nearby may be the church which is to be restored. There are still some derelict sites - one at least has been most imaginatively made into an attractive seating area. The large filling station on the left as you approach from Cashel was well maintained, as were its welcome restaurant and shop, a distinctly useful new amenity. The Community Centre was still in need of external decoration. Several business premises have been praised in the past; this adjudicator particularly admired Hayes's Bar.

LITTER CONTROL

On adjudication day there was a considerable amount of disposable litter on both sides of the road leading to the Graveyard; also an accumulation of litter at the gate leading to the water in the Goul garden; and minor outbreaks of littering in the main street.

TIDINESS

There are still some unsightly signs and derelict premises, but in general there is a reasonably tidy look to Urlingford. Discourage unplastered cement-block walls and post-and-wire fencing. The garage/filling stations to the north of the town are much less tidy than those to the south.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of Urlingford is residential. Street houses are in general well kept; there are very pleasant terraced

cottages in side-streets on a pleasing domestic scale, some with quaint gardens or floral displays. The bright and well-maintained estate at the north end of the town looked extremely well on adjudication day, with several attractive front gardens. Good new housing was seen at Emerald Gardens and on the adjacent street.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All the main approach roads were well presented. Car parking bays were well identified. (Ideally, provision of off-street parking should be encouraged). New stone wall building was noted, and some stone wall rebuilding was in progress. A first class example of good fencing was seen along the private property opposite the Graveyard - others might copy to advantage. Good to see how cleverly small flowerbeds have been fitted into the design of new paving. There are some 'corners' or black spots which could be cleared out without a great deal of trouble or expense by their owners.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A village which used to appear rather drab, now has a sense of integrated planning, liveliness and colour, with a number of interesting ongoing improvements.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/08/96)

Your development objectives are very commendable, but you need to decide a timescale for their implementation. The maintenance of the Cork and Laois approaches is excellent, but try to also include minor approaches such as the Freshford road, which is not presently maintained to the high standard of the other approaches. The standard of planting and bedding displays within the town was of a high standard, but you need to consider a more permanent structure of trees throughout the town. This has been started along the Laois approach and needs to be extended to other areas, particularly the Cork road. In terms of buildings, there is still some progress to be made, and properties were being renovated at the time of adjudication. There is great scope for increasing your rating in this section over the coming years. Overall, the only problem area was along the Cork road where there was some litter visible. The situation with regard to litter needs to be constantly monitored, but you are doing an excellent job considering the amount of through traffic through the town.