

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GARRYKENNEDY**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20
Landscaping	40	31
The Built Environment	40	32
Litter Control	40	27
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	300	221

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The very detailed application form and accompanying map made it extremely easy for the adjudicator to carry out the inspection - relevant areas were easily identifiable and this indeed creates a good initial impression. The whole ethos of the developmental approach as it should be is encapsulated in the very first three answers in Section B of your completed application form. Here you have a committee of 22 acting in concert and obviously representative of all sections of the community, able to harness the support of local clubs and other organisations for funding support ,and able to interact with the relevant local authority and other state and semi state agencies for the betterment of the village and its surrounds. No more to be said except well done. The result of your endeavours can be seen in the village. As with most places it has its blimps but at least they have been highlighted.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The committee is to be commended for the encouragement they are giving to local organisations such as the gun club to get involved in nature and wildlife conservation. The village has an advantage over most villages in that it is an ideal location for any form of wildlife/nature project , being on Irelands premier lake and having such natural habitats available in its immediate surrounds. Efforts have been made to make nature more accessible to the public and also a source of enjoyment especially for young children by the provision of a nature walk /trail. Whilst not wanting to seem critical of the amenity, I do think that there are a number of improvements that could be made. I have to agree with the view expressed in last years report that the trail is not very accessible. It's a bit too steep and the concrete wall, which does not fit in with the rustic surroundings, is too obtrusive. The amenity furniture and play areas seem to be on rough terrain - this could be dangerous for children. I would advise the committee as part of their ongoing review to examine this area and possibly seek advice if necessary to upgrade it.

LANDSCAPING

Much detailed comment was made in last years report on the type of trees and shrubs that were already planted suggestions were made as to what type of shrubs would be effective in certain scenarios. The interpretation of this section under the new criteria as it is written is rather loose, but as this adjudicator reads it the objective is to apply a landscaping programme that will be in keeping with the surrounds and that will have a year round effect. For instance if annuals are suitable for certain places to provide colour they may not be suitable for areas that are more wooded. You have rightly highlighted in your application form that you intend to keep the landscaping natural, even though partial to the hardy annuals that give colour like alyssum, lobelia, verbena etc., The colour provided on walls near public toilets was pleasing on the eye.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

In your application you have indicated the difficulties that you have in relation to buildings that are owned by absent landlords., Unfortunately there is little you can do except keep `encouraging` these owners to contribute to the great community spirit that exists in Garrykennedy. The state of these houses take away from the place. It's a pity because they could look so well if even the roofs were repaired and they were painted. There is also an old farm outbuilding adjacent to the carpark that should be restored to its period state to depict the times it represents. There were a few overgrown sites in and around the village. If something is not done with the unfinished house opposite Ryans Pub it will quickly become an even bigger eyesore. The public toilets were not at their best on adjudication day which happened to be very sunny and bright so it wasn't the fault of the weather! The boundary wall alluded to in the Landscaping Section should be either knocked and rebuilt or at least faced in stone. Both `Ryans` and `Dan Larkins` were in good order. Is it possible to have the wall post box near the car park restored as a feature ?

LITTER CONTROL

There was some litter around both the forest trail play ground areas and around the entrance to same. A few more bins should be provided in the above area as it is one of the most busiest places in the village.

TIDINESS

The area around the entrance to the Forest Trail was quite untidy . Outside of the algae in the water there was rubbish and the `McCarthy ` derelict truck is an eyesore and should be removed. Some back areas here were a little too untidy and not in keeping with the rest of the village. The weed control was quite good except for a small area in the carpark.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Taking all the village and surrounds into account, I felt that the condition of houses were quite good. Allowing for the ongoing problem vis a vis absent landowners in the centre of the village, most of the other premises were quite clean and painted. This is a small village in which the houses in the main are of an old vintage.

ROADS , STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads were well presented, grass margins need to be cut back slightly. The back entrances of most properties were reasonable but there were a few untidy ones and I would hope that owners will do something more positive prior to next years competition. There was an ongoing building project on the `old road` which left the place a bit untidy. An old building farther up has a rather unsightly front. I am sure that it will be transformed by next year.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The first impression one gets about Garrykennedy, aside from its natural attractiveness, is that there seems to be a good communal effort on the part of residents. The Tidy Towns Committee is playing a major part in ensuring that this effort is channelled into activities that have one main objective - the ongoing improvement of the village. The committee is quite big for a village of its size but obviously very effective. There also is good interaction with statutory bodies, but I think the main strength is its constant monitoring of issues of concern and its efforts to try and resolve them.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (14/08/96)

The village has all the ingredients to be successful in the competition, particularly under the new wildlife criteria. Besides the waterside areas, the buildings were for the most part well cared for - including outbuildings which were beautifully white washed/planted. The Old Road has been improved considerably in recent times but there is clearly further scope. A small point, but worthy of consideration is that the concrete block wall at the start of the Forest Walk would be preferred in stone; incidentally there was an old tyre and other debris in the water nearby. The internal condition of the toilets was probably the most disappointing aspect of the village!