

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **FINEA**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17
Landscaping	40	27
The Built Environment	40	30
Litter Control	40	30
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	205

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

The approach that has been adopted by Finea up to now has served the village well and you have reached a high standard of presentation, it is also heartening to note that you are preparing a three/five year plan which should give added focus to your efforts and also assist in tackling the weaker elements in the village. The adjudicator looks forward to getting a copy of this plan.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Finea is fortunate in that the focal point of the village is the River Inny and this forms a natural amenity and wildlife habitat in its own right. Hedgerows, gardens and trees are also important wild life habitats. The adjudicators noted that you are conscious of the danger to wildlife by removing bait, hooks, discarded fishing line, etc. from the river. Your development plan should focus attention on what more can be done to enhance the natural amenities and wildlife habitats in the village and its environs.

LANDSCAPING

The main street of Finea with its fine stone bridge, wide street and trimmed mature trees which are set off by the small colourful flower beds is very attractive. The numerous window boxes and hanging baskets and creepers on several buildings contribute further to the overall effect. The riverside amenity areas on both sides of the bridge with their boating facilities, landscaping work, picnic facilities etc. are valuable recreational resources and are satisfactorily maintained, however weed control could be improved particularly on the tarred parking area on the down stream amenity. Long vegetation should be removed from the stone work of the bridge facing up stream.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the shops are freshly painted. The creeper on Moynaghs adds greatly to its appearance. Ledwiths and Clarkes are also of a high standard. The Church has been recently painted but weeds are noticeable in front of rear car parking area. The Garda Station is acceptable. Weed control could be improved at boundary areas of many houses particularly the property approaching the Mounthugent junction.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is of a high order with no litter visible on the approach roads, the village centre or the amenity areas. However, to maintain ongoing litter control additional litter bins might be considered.

TIDINESS

Finea has a tidy appearance which is generated by the well presented public and private dwellings, the absence of litter etc. However the overall appearance of Finea could be further heightened if the footpath kerbings were swept on a more regular basis.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the residential properties in the village are of a high standard. Colourful window boxes and hanging baskets add to the overall effect. However gravelled margins need much more attention. The derelict building approaching the name sign on the Cavan road needs to be camouflaged. Painting would freshen up the green iron roof adjoining the Post Office.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Castlepollard approach is presented to a high standard with closely cut grass verges and trimmed

hedges, however as has been mentioned a number of wide gravelled margins are weedy and additional tree planting could take place in a number of locations. The pump and monument are most attractive. The stone walls and flowers set off the pump and the well maintained iron railing are a feature of the monument. The fish designs on the iron seating are a nice touch and are appropriate to Finea with its fishing and river/lake location.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Finea is an attractive and colourful village with many interesting features. Hopefully your development plan will focus on the weaker areas, e.g. weed control, sweeping footpath kerbings, etc.

SECOND ADJUDICATION

It is good to note that a planned work programme is being prepared and we look forward to receiving details of this next year. The riverside picnic area and the riverside in general looked especially well on the day of second adjudication. Your nature walk is a great asset, perhaps details of wildlife to be seen along the walk can now be provided both on site and with next year's submission. Trees along the main street are maturing well and flower displays at their base and around the village were in full bloom on second adjudication. Perhaps two or three trees could be planted in the carparking area of the new residential properties near the Furniture Sales premises. Litter control was strong on second adjudication also - well done! While there was an overall appearance of tidiness, field boundaries here and there could be planted with hedgerow for greater enclosure. Roadside kerbs along some stretches feature a build up of gravel/or soil which should be removed. Newly constructed residential properties look particularly well. Some roadside boundary walls to residential properties at the opposite end of the village are in need of attention, e.g. cleaning/painting/repairs. The nameplate near the Ballyjamesduff junction was dirty. It is also suggested that a fingerboard direction sign for the village be located at the junction of the Granard and the Ballyjamesduff Road.