

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KINNEGAD**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10
Landscaping	40	22
The Built Environment	40	21
Litter Control	40	20
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	157

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is recognised that Kinnegad as one of the major cross-roads in the country has problems that few other centres have to cope with. It is the huge volume of passing traffic together with the commercial pressures this brings that to a great extent has defined Kinnegad's image and identity. There is no doubt that the town has major problems but things are not nearly as bleak as sometimes painted. Under these circumstances it is important that you continue to make every effort to bring the whole community including the business sector with you and that you work as closely as possible with state agencies. Your development plan provides an excellent basis on which to model your future work programme.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

In common with most other centres up to now little consideration was given to enhancing wildlife habitats. The obvious place for you to consider under this heading is the Kinnegad river and indeed there are other possibilities such as hedgerows, trees, etc. You should consult suitable authorities in this regard with a view to identifying what can be done, e.g. maintaining hedgerows, suitable planting etc. and incorporating these proposals in your future plans.

LANDSCAPING

One of the attractive features of Kinnegad are the large number of well planted hanging baskets and window boxes on both business and private properties which considerably brighten up the main street and more should be encouraged. The new footpaths which the Local Authority have provided with the trees are another good feature and the trees will become more influential as they mature. There are a number of other locations where suitable trees should be planted particularly on the wide grassed margins, in the footpaths, on the Athlone road and on the approaches to the bridge.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

To a great extent the street scape of main street is dominated by its unsightly wire scape and plethora of large display signs. These tend to obscure the many attractively painted and presented business premises and private houses. A number of derelict buildings in the main street especially at Athlone junction are also unsightly. Iron roofs at the Athlone junction area need painting. If the wire scape and the signs could be tackled it would enormously improve the appearance of Kinnegad. The murals at the boundary wall at the GAA pitch are effective and the car park area is weed and litter free.

LITTER CONTROL

Ongoing attention is needed to control litter. The large volumes of traffic make this very difficult but it is essential that litter control remains one of your top priorities. Your problems with the Local Authority in this respect is noted; however, you must work more closely with the business community to compensate for this. Additional litter bins in a number of locations might be helpful.

TIDINESS

In spite of litter problems, derelict buildings, wirescape, etc. the main street of Kinnegad has a cared for look and this is helped by the brightly painted buildings and the new footpaths etc. However the overall impression of the town would be much improved with a higher standard of maintenance of approach roads, litter, etc.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the private houses are well looked after and many have attractively planted gardens. A number

particularly on the Killucan and the Trim road need to maintain gravelled areas in front of boundary walls.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Most of the grass verges and margins of the approach roads are not maintained. Grass should be cut on a regular basis and where possible cut grass should be removed. Weeds and long grass are unsightly especially at the base of stone walls and growing through chain link fencing. This is particularly noticeable from the Edenderry junction to the river bridge. Several stretches of fencing are in need of replacement or repair. The iron railing on the wall approaching the river bridge needs to be repaired and painted. There are several directional and speed limit signs that are damaged and need repair or painting. Stretches of new wall have been noted at a number of locations, e.g. in the vicinity of the Visitor Centre.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Kinnegad has major problems to deal with and there is no easy solution to these, e.g. litter, dereliction and approach roads. You must try to implement your Development Plan. Generating as much local support as possible will be crucial in this as will maintaining a good working relationship with the state agencies.