

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **FERNS**  
County : **WEXFORD**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	21
The Built Environment	40	20
Litter Control	40	18
Tidiness	20	9
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>156</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

You have a fine number of persons involved in your Committee which is marvellous. Your approach with regard to dividing into sub-groups is an excellent idea and having good enthusiasm is half the battle. All Tidy Towns Committees are now being encouraged to produce a very simple Work Programme or Plan for a period of 3 to 5 years. It should set out clearly your objectives for each year covered. Do not adopt unrealistic objectives. It is better to have a limited number of developments which are more likely to yield results. It is good to see that you are liaising with the agencies. Do also talk to the NRB in Wexford who will be only too glad to advise you on building access for the disabled.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As a Tidy Towns Committee you have an important role to play in protecting, developing and increasing the wildlife in your Community. Do invite a local environmental expert to advise and provide you with specialist information you require. It will be interesting to see the results of the School project on wildlife and will be of immense help to you.

### LANDSCAPING

The landscaping on the Enniscorthy road was very good with a delightful shrub and tree planting area. Also in this area was a beautiful bed of plants. On the approach road to Gorey - the tree planting there was good but the grass needed a cut. Do keep all open green spaces cut and tidy. Encourage window box displays, planters and hanging baskets.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Ferns Castle - a delightful historic National Monument which is a great attraction for visitors. It was very disappointing to see the amounts of litter in the grounds of the Castle - inside the wall and in the moat of the Castle. There were cans and bicycle wheels there also. The Graveyard was well kept and had a lovely stone wall. The Church was kept in perfect condition and is a credit to all. The School had excellent tree and shrub planting and was well presented. Perhaps the wall will need painting for 1997. The small Church of St Aidan's is constructed of lovely stone. The weeds should be removed from the walls at the entrance. The Graveyard has a lovely stone wall. The business premises do need attention. Encourage those that have plastic signs to replace them with more traditional-looking types. Encourage them all to come on board with you and make Ferns stunning looking. The Grotto was presented beautifully and was neat and tidy.

### LITTER CONTROL

Litter control needs to be tackled. Litter was clearly in evidence on the day of adjudication in and around the Castle area as indicated above, in the shrub bed by the telephone booth, at the Church car park and also outside some of the business premises on the streets. Litter is now a big issue countrywide. This litter problem must be tackled and the Committee must make this task one of their priorities.

### TIDINESS

There are some uneven footpaths which have weeds on them. The kerbs in most areas are weed-free. The open space on the Monageer/Boolavogue junction is overgrown, has litter and large cable reels left there. Tidiness and litter go hand in hand.

### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The Parc Mhuire housing development is presented well. The Grotto is a lovely feature of this area and is beautifully maintained. The green open spaces were cut and tidy. Most houses were well maintained

and presented. There appears to be great community spirit here. The green fir trees sown will help to disguise the pallet shed. Individual houses are well maintained and look very pleasing. Other housing developments will no doubt for 1997 begin a programme of tasks to help make their environment more pleasant, tidy and litter-free.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads need more regular cutting. The main roads are not too bad but other roads need regular attention. The grass around signs should be kept tidy and weeding should be carried out as required. All walls and kerbs to be kept weed-free. Some lanes and streets need resurfacing.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

Your future plans, the number involved in your Committee and your enthusiasm must bring about a better looking Ferns for the year ahead.