

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **HACKETSTOWN**  
County : **CARLOW**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	30
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	16	16
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>173</b>

## **Hacketstown, County Carlow**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for enclosing your Plan which is very comprehensive. You have outlined your objectives for the next three years very clearly. You have a strong Committee and no doubt much will be achieved in the coming years. The Committee should form close relations with agencies who can help and advise you in your work. The ESB, Telecom Eireann, the National Rehabilitation Board, Bord na Gaeilge and the Regional Tourism Authority will all have useful advice and help to give you. You have already indicated that you are liaising with the County Council and FAS.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The commercial and public buildings presentation was mixed, a point which was also made in last year's report. The Church was well presented. The Garda Station needs to be refurbished and painted. The boundary wall of the Fire Station needs freshening. The new supermarket improved the built environment in the town. I note that the overall built environment is one of the areas to be tackled. This is wise as improvement is needed in this area. Do encourage the commercial sector when upgrading their properties to use bilingualism in signage where appropriate. The ESSO Station was not complete on adjudication day. However, some nice landscaping was observed on the bank behind which is to be commended. When your objectives under this category are realised it will look very pleasing indeed.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The picnic area was well presented. The shrubs are maturing nicely and the monument was free of weeds, etc. Do keep the area around the tables and the grass verges neat and tidy. More landscaping is needed at the open spaces in the housing estates and indeed in any open spaces throughout. In Hillview more shrubs and trees could soften up the built environment. Again in Mountain View more attention is needed. Work has commenced in Marian Terrace and when completed will look good. Do discuss the choice and location of trees and shrubs with somebody locally who has expertise in this area and no doubt would be delighted to help with this aspect.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

You have plans to develop the River as an amenity and it will have great potential for wetland habitats. Also the area around Eagle Hill would be suitable for the promotion and conservation of grassland habitats. Do seek the help of Conservation Volunteers of Ireland, who will help and assess the situation for you. Do involve all members of the Community and focus especially on school and youth groups. It can be amazing how responsive they are to the environment.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control was reasonably good on adjudication day. Some pieces were evident in the picnic area. Bins are necessary here to help prevent the dropping of litter. There was a light scattering on the Tullow road and small pieces throughout the town. The housing estates were very good with little or no litter evident. The issue of litter should include the promotion of anti-litter awareness with the Community as a whole, the provision of litter bins in the right places and regular clean ups (which you are doing at present).

## **TIDINESS**

The overall appearance was reasonably good but the control of weeds at kerbs in all areas must be tackled. The same has to apply to walls, buildings and entrances to commercial and industrial premises. Some improvements were noted but there is scope for more. The area around the telephone booth near the housing estate needed to be tidied and the perspex needed cleaning.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Again, this year there is inconsistency in the town area. Some are presented very well but others need attention. I note from your Plan that you are going to tackle this area. Walls and gates need attention in Mountain View. The gate to the field has rubble and weeds there. Most properties were kept well in Hill View and the open green space was tidy. Weed control at kerbs needs attention and management.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The items in this category need attention. Some streets need resurfacing especially the side streets. The signs in the town centre need replacing and cleaning. Gates to open spaces need attention. You have indicated in your plan an intention to tackle derelict sites which is welcome. The footpaths need repairs or replacement in many places. The approach roads were tidy, particularly the Baltinglass road.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Hacketstown is an attractive town and your plans for the next 4 years will bring about huge improvements. A good community spirit has been established and your Committee will go from strength to strength. No doubt the business and commercial sector will come on board with you in helping to achieve your aims.