

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KINGSCOURT**
County : **CAVAN**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	22	20
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	24	26
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	160	159

Kingscourt, County Cavan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, the efforts put into such cosmetic aspects of presentation, individual buildings and floral displays are effective but you must extend your scope of work to produce more permanent and integral results. It is important in this your third year of entry to formulate a strategy in order to express strong features within the town and tackle the problem areas. This would take the form of a three to five year work plan which would provide a framework within which to work and indicate the progress you make as the years go by.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The buildings along main street, for the most part, looked very fresh on adjudication day. However, one or two were in need of attention. Mackins Hotel which appears to be for sale was very flaky. Shannon's with its attractive traditional front was also very flaky and Dun an Ri Guest House could also be freshened up before next year. Quite a few inappropriate plastic signs could be replaced by something more in keeping and there was at least one curved plastic canopy which should be replaced by a more traditional fabric awning. The Wishing Well was attractively presented with colourful hanging baskets. Cartlan's, a thatched roofed traditional old pub, was quite charming and sported some attractive planting to the right of the facade. The stone catholic church with its graveyard and limestone boundary wall was well presented. St. Mary's Hall/the Library with its hanging baskets either side of the door was well presented also. The Nissan station looked neat but the forecourt area was quite bleak and empty. The Telecom Eireann station mentioned last year looked bleak. The old school house looked quite charming and the brick parochial hall at the end of Church Street looked extremely quaint. The school was well presented and its grounds were neat. However, the barrier outside and the plastered portion of the boundary wall badly needed painting. While the Health Centre looked well, the forecourt area and the pavement in front of it were very weedy. The Church of Ireland, its grounds and stone boundary wall looked magnificent.

LANDSCAPING

As already mentioned in this report, the profusion of hanging baskets on both buildings and stands along the main street looked very well. However, there is scope for the creation of a more integrated landscaping which would also provide a solution to the problem of desolate open spaces in the town. Both Statoil (in its prominent position at the Monaghan end of the Main Street) the Nissan station and indeed all the petrol stations throughout the town could make more of their forecourt areas. The landscaping on the side road by the National Irish Bank looked extremely well with permanent planting. The trees marching down Main Street into Church Street should be a marvellous asset for future

generations. The stone walls to the GAA grounds are most effective and the evergreen trees planted should progress nicely.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your response to the questionnaire in this category would seem to indicate that there is no wildlife within the town! However, with its multitude of mature trees, grounds and gardens, Kingscourt provides an ideal habitat for all species of wildlife. Contact the relevant national bodies such as ENFO and Conservation Volunteers Ireland, who will give you information on the subject. Get both local experts and the school children involved in order to put your campaign into action. Start by identifying local habitats, surveying the area and formulating a wildlife management plan.

LITTER CONTROL

As identified in your questionnaire, litter is a problem both within the town and along approach roads, particularly the Dublin/Kells and Dundalk Roads. Quite a lot was evident within the town along the central tree lined median / island and in the gutters along either side of the Main Street. A lot of litter was evident outside the Telecom Eireann station and it might be advisable to invest in some new litter bins!

TIDINESS

The bare and desolate-looking open spaces throughout the town create a bad impression by virtue of being weedy, badly surfaced and bleak. Particular examples are the recessed forecourt area opposite the Garda Station, the car park area beside the National Irish Bank, the cooker sales outlet and forecourt areas of the petrol stations. The side wall to the Burmah Station looked particularly grubby. You should also attempt to screen untidy and cluttered yard areas from public view. The new trees to the side of Gilmore's are progressing nicely. However, the low concrete wall at the roadside could possibly be replaced by a hedge or stone wall. The yard area of Clarke and Gibson was very weedy and the concrete post and metal wire fence created a bad impression. Weed control was a problem in some areas particularly to the front of the Health Centre / Dispensary and at the school. A pile of rubbish, rusty oil drums and pallets in the weedy car park area opposite the Church of Ireland created a very bad impression.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Although individual houses and gardens, both throughout the village and along approach roads, were for the most part well presented, grubby and flaky boundary walls were a problem, particularly on the Monaghan Road. The charming stone with brick trimmed cottages beside the Burmah Station on the Monaghan Road were greatly admired, as were the attractive snap-dragons at another house on this road. The open space at the terraced houses on the Dublin Road looked well, although some tree planting might further enhance it. There were some very attractive gardens on the Dublin Road. The boarded up house with tin roof at the top of Church Street should be painted up. The blue house beside Cartlan's on Main Street looked very fresh.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

More work is required under this heading, as it is an area that could be improved upon. The Monaghan Road looked a little bit overgrown, but the new ash trees were coming along nicely. A pile of sand and gravel by an old estate gateway should be cleared up when the work for which it is intended is complete. This road sported some attractive mature trees. The town nameplate sign on this side was quite grubby although the pansies at the base were admired. It might be an idea to freshen up the old village pump on this road. The old empty factory on the Cavan Road looked quite sad and neglected. One or two boundary walls along this road were grubby and weeds were evident to the pavement at the speed limit sign. A flaky white painted timber fence should be re-whitewashed. Wild foxgloves were admired. This Road was also a little bit overgrown and the Kingscourt sign needed freshening up. Along the Dundalk Road the speed limit signs were rusty and quite grubby, and the old broken Kingscourt sign should be removed. Nearer to town some litter was evident, as were weeds to the base of a bare concrete block boundary wall with a rusty gate. Some tin roofed outbuildings along this stretch of the road should be freshened up and possibly painted in a traditional red to give a cheerful effect. Along the Dublin Road, boundary walls generally were in need of painting, and the verges again looked slightly overgrown. However, the wild ferns and pink wild roses in the hedgerows were admired.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Kingscourt is a fine market town set in magnificent scenery with many unique and charming buildings. The main streets within the town looked well on adjudication day but it is vital to tackle the very prominent weaker areas such as back alley ways, bleak open spaces, abandoned buildings and litter.