

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **FREEMOUNT**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21	19
The Built Environment	40	21	20
Landscaping	40	17	15
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	16	15
Tidiness	20	6	7
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	17	18
General Impression	10	5	4
TOTAL MARK	300	133	128

Freemount, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your submitted work programme. It is very encouraging to note that you have involved so many statutory agencies in the development of this plan. The plan outlines a work programme for one year. However, this could easily be adopted as a three to five year strategy, bearing in mind the extensive nature of your plans. It would also be advisable to involve the local school in creating an awareness of litter control.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Freemount is fortunate to possess a number of fine buildings of good character, prominent among them are the excellent refurbished heritage centre and the community centre. However, these buildings are spoiled by the vast amounts of overgrowth which surround them. The Golden Vale depot is reasonably maintained. However, the derelict shed near the depot is unsightly. It was noted that some work has been carried out to alter this situation - this should be continued. The church and the school are to be commended on their presentation.

LANDSCAPING

The planting that has taken place in front of the school is to be complemented. Other positive initiatives include the well maintained grotto and the presence of flower boxes in the village, adding colour to the area. The ongoing work outside the community centre is noted and deserves praise. Your development plan acknowledges the fact that much work is required to landscape unsightly open spaces in the village and this should be viewed as a priority for future development.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Freemount is an area with its rural location and abundance of natural resources, in which there is great potential for development. The development plan lays out very attainable goals under this category and the provision of a riverside amenity will enhance the area. As was suggested last year, it is recommended that the group consult with a wildlife expert to further develop your plans.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter was not very evident in the main street of the village. However, there was a significant amount of litter on the approach and back roads. It should be a priority of the group to create an awareness programme in the local school. An increase in the number of bins would also prove beneficial.

TIDINESS

Overall the village was tidy. Nevertheless, the problems caused by open spaces cannot be overlooked. Areas such as the site

opposite the derelict shed, and the small site down from the post office are very untidy and require attention. The entrance to the local G.A.A. field and tennis court and the rubble stacked across from the heritage centre require attention.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Overall the standard of presentation of houses and gardens in the area is reasonable. The grass area in front of Noonan Park and the neglect of one of the gardens detracts from a well presented area. Further initiatives should be undertaken to encourage house owners to improve the presentation of their houses.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads to the village were in general satisfactory. However, some verges and ditches could have looked tidier. A number of poles on the approach roads will require painting.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Positive steps have been taken by the community, as shown by their commitment to the development plan and their involvement with other bodies. If this plan is carried out in a co-ordinated manner, Freemount will benefit significantly. Continued participation in this competition will provide a specific focus for your efforts. You are wished continued success.