

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CUFFESGRANGE**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-97

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1997 | Mark Awarded 1996 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 23 | -- |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 20 | -- |
| Landscaping | 40 | 20 | -- |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 17 | -- |
| Litter Control | 40 | 30 | -- |
| Tidiness | 20 | 14 | -- |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 22 | -- |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 27 | -- |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | -- |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 180 | -- |

Cuffesgrange, Co. Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

We welcome Cuffesgrange to the Tidy Towns competition and wish them every success in it. Thank you for providing so much information which was very useful on adjudication day. It is most encouraging to read about your fundraising initiatives and your contacts and co-operation with Kilkenny County Council. The involvement of your Local Authority is absolutely essential in any Tidy Towns effort. While Cuffesgrange is a very small village with a small population you should, nevertheless, think in terms of putting together a 3 to 5 year plan. There is no need to hire consultants to do this as it can be easily done in conjunction with your local Community and your Local Authority. Try to identify what needs to be done and also how you can improve the existing infrastructure of the village. The marking given this year will be an initial one and may appear to be low but you will undoubtedly see that, as time goes on, your marks will improve in line with your commitment and initiatives.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

On adjudication day the Church, graveyard, car park and commercial premises were very well presented. While the brick wall around the church is very functional it is a pity that it was not built of stone keeping with the entrance of the car park. However your Committee and the local Clergy might consider enhancing both the cemetery and the car park through judicious planting of trees and shrubs. This would have a softening effect on the concrete.

LANDSCAPING

For the future consider the judicious planting of trees and flowering shrubs which in the case of the latter, will give you some colour on an all-year-round basis. Flowers are, of course, also important and your efforts in this respect were noted on adjudication day. However flowers need a lot of maintenance so only plant in relation to the amount of labour available for this purpose. The tree and the pump in the middle of the village are a lovely feature and should be presented in their natural state. Do not try to enhance their appearance by planting flowers around them. Any tree planting should also be done judiciously as otherwise it can become a cause of clutter. If doing so consult with your Local Authority engineer or Coillte and get the best advice possible regarding placement.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new category in the competition the purpose of which is to put emphasis on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodland, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, grass margins, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats. The Committee should try to identify the habitats in their area and then determine the appropriate actions

necessary to conserve and enhance them. The guidelines in the Tidy Towns brochure offers other suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. If there is a local wildlife expert or a member of your Community with experience in this area, do get them involved.

LITTER CONTROL

Cuffesgrange was completely litter-free on adjudication day. Congratulations to all concerned.

TIDINESS

On adjudication day the village was extremely neat and tidy and reflects what must be great pride in the community for the preservation of the village environment.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Cuffesgrange does not have very many houses but those that do exist were presented in an exemplary way which again reflects the high level of commitment by local residents to the activities of your Committee. Congratulations to all concerned.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

In general these were well presented. Road surfaces are good but there was the odd pot hole here and there. The trimming of verges which has been carried out is excellent and sets headline for other centres to follow. However with a view to wildlife conservation it is suggested that future trimming should not be done right back to the hedge but should allow some leeway for the growing of wildflowers along the approaches. A suggestion would be that verges should be cut to approximately half way in from the road edge.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Cuffesgrange has a lovely environment and the establishment of a Tidy Towns Committee is most appropriate for its preservation. As mentioned already draw up a simple 3 to 5 year plan of items which need improvement and development and work to that plan in conjunction with your Local Authority, FAS and other agencies. You will be surprised how quickly your marks will improve.