

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **WINDGAP**  
County : **KILKENNY**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	--
The Built Environment	40	21	--
Landscaping	40	24	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	--
Litter Control	40	31	--
Tidiness	20	14	--
Residential Areas	30	21	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	--
General Impression	10	6	--
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>--</b>

## **Windgap, Co. Kilkenny**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

We welcome Windgap back to the competition after an absence of 3 years and wish them every success in it. It is encouraging to see that a new Committee has been formed and to read of their plans and aspirations for the development of the village. It was also encouraging to read that you have the assistance of your Local Authority, FAS and local schools groups which is essential if Windgap is to progress in the competition. However there was little evidence on adjudication day of any work having been carried out to date so the following comments are based on how the adjudicator found the village presented on that day.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The Church is in need of exterior refurbishment. The Community Hall is badly in need of tidying up and needs to be painted and repaired. The Land League House obviously has great potential as a civic or heritage centre but needs a lot of work done to it. The GAA Park in itself looked well but the surroundings are completely overgrown and need attention. The two cemeteries and the Grotto are being well maintained but, of course, need constant attention. The Avonmore premises is reasonably well presented as is the building beside it. Guinans Lounge Bar looked extremely well. However the same cannot be said for the buildings on the opposite side of the road which are very dilapidated and are badly in need of exterior refurbishment if nothing else. Work on the new wall was also noted on adjudication day.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Tree planting, probably by the previous Committee, was noted on adjudication day. However please look at other areas where you might possibly judiciously plant additional trees and flowering shrubs but in this event be advised by your Local Authority, Coillte or a local expert who is knowledgeable on such matters. Perhaps you already have such an expert on your Committee. The emphasis is however on the word judicious as to do otherwise only causes clutter. Careful planting will have the effect of softening the landscape. On adjudication day the tubs of flowers in the vicinity of the Church, the Parochial House and the Pump looked somewhat neglected. When planting flowers or providing tubs and hanging baskets the Committee should bear in mind that these need constant maintenance and should only be provided within the scope of the labour available for their maintenance.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Your wildlife area is, of course, excellent and has been nominated by the adjudicator for consideration for the Wildlife Award. This is a new category in the competition. The emphasis is on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodlands, 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 to conserve and enhance these. Guidelines in the Tidy Towns book offer other suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. If however there is a local wildlife expert or a member of your Community with experience in this area please do get them involved. Consult also with your Local Authority. Your present wildlife area looks excellent and is obviously being well cared for.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Windgap was virtually free of litter on adjudication day. Congratulations to all concerned. There was however some evidence of litter in the vicinity of the recreation complex.

### **TIDINESS**

Again, Windgap looked reasonably tidy on adjudication day. Allowances have been made for building work which is taking place in the Main Street.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Individual homes are being well looked after. Some are exceptional with lovely gardens. The new housing in the Main Street will greatly enhance the overall appearance of the village. Rossenaney Court also looked very well. However what looks like an abandoned trailer in the middle of the estate certainly takes away from its overall appearance.

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

Road surfaces are excellent. However all approaches through the village are completely overgrown and initially will probably call for some help from your Local Authority to carry out an initial cutting. Your request to the Local Authority for additional village signs has been noted.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Windgap is a delightful place but could be much improved through the co-operation of the Local Authority and in particular the commercial interests. There is a need to draw up a specific 3 to 5-Year Plan. There is no need to hire consultants to do this. It can be done with the assistance of your Local Authority and local residents with a view to identifying on a year-to-year basis what can be realistically done through your voluntary effort or with the help of agencies such as FAS. Success in the Tidy Towns Competition is not achieved overnight. It takes many years of painstaking planned work but it can be done and many towns and villages have already done so.