

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BUNCLODY**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	28	23
Landscaping	40	21	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	25	21
Tidiness	20	14	10
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	25
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	190	172

Bunclody, Co. Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

A single map of the town was provided with all the important sites highlighted and supported by a written statement on the application form. It would be advantageous to put both information packages into the same document so that it can be used for both future and past reference to past projects carried out. Overall the works as described demonstrate the clear involvement and participation; that goals have been easily achieved and there is a committed effort by everyone involved in the town to establish a very pleasant setting to the town.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is a wonderful sense of cohesiveness with all the shop fronts along the main street. This is developing into a strong theme of traditional shop fronts with a lot of attention to detail for elements on the shops. Of note is the fine gold lettering on glass which has been used on several shops and produces a very striking image associated with this town and separates the shops of Bunclody from other villages in the region. The street furniture adds greatly, both to the visual amenity and use of the external spaces and provides a complete image for the street environment. It should be noted that if new street furniture is to be added it should examine the existing furniture so that it can be matched as there are several different styles of lamp standards, while the litter bins are again of a different style more associated with a larger town. Care should be taken in encouraging the rural character of the town in the selection of future street items. The Committee must be complimented for working with the Local Authorities and all individual property owners to ensure a cohesive environment with all the new works and that barrier-free design was integrated with the new works.

LANDSCAPING

The Mall provides one of the strongest images and gives the town a very clear individual identity. The use of the same species of trees associated with the Mall should be extended through the town to extend a cohesive setting throughout the town. Note should be taken of the existing stakes to the trees in the Mall which would seem to be redundant at this stage. The works at Carraig Ban demonstrate an extremely diligent approach to the entry to the housing area. The colour is quite spectacular and it would be nice to see this theme extended into the front gardens of the adjacent houses. Care should be taken in the selection of tree species as many of the exotic species will be short lived and though they may provide display, colour and texture, the choice of native plants will produce a much more permanent effect to areas of planting. The area on the Enniscorthy road should be re-examined as the trees are dying and detract from the exemplary efforts which the Committee has achieved throughout the town.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The stream which is a feature of the Mall is a super example of integrating a natural feature with the built environment. The preservation of the many fine stands of trees in the surrounding environment demonstrate a great concern to maintaining existing habitats for wildlife and future consideration should be given as to how this can be extended into the town itself. The presentation of the river has a very relaxed and charming appearance and reinforces the connection of the town to wildlife habitats.

LITTER CONTROL

There is a very high standard of litter management throughout the whole town and the Committee must be congratulated on ensuring a very strong control, given the importance of the town as a shopping area and therefore its openness to a much greater source of litter than other towns of its size. The litter bins are strategically located and do not detract from the recent urban improvements. Though some litter was noticed in the stream, this may be a temporary, unavoidable occurrence.

TIDINESS

The recent urban improvements to the town reinforce the desire to maintain an orderly and tidy environment the benefits of which are clearly demonstrated in the high standard observed. This approach extends throughout the whole town and even the presentation of the farm machinery along the Enniscorthy road reinforces a committed effort by everyone in the community.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

All areas are very well tended and the use of colour in the plantings increases the amount of visual interest throughout the town. There is a need for some gardens to extend the planting theme as established in the public areas so as to increase the visual impact of the landscape setting. The care and attention taken at the entries to housing areas is exemplary.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The town has undergone major transformation with the urban renewal works and it must be mentioned that there were no tripping hazards on any of the footways and all paths were easily accessed with roll-on kerbs. At present there are still works continuing in the town and these are only temporarily visual intrusion. The entry into the town on all roads is very well maintained and provides a very good connection between the town and surrounding countryside. The use of larger trees along the entry areas would be a definite improvement and ensure a permanent benefit from the efforts of the Committee.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The efforts achieved in Bunclody in recent years demonstrate a very strong commitment to ensuring a special image for the town. The impact of traffic within the central space needs to be lessened as it is inclined to reduce the importance of the pedestrian areas.

This is particularly so with the central car parking area. Overall the town demonstrates a very clear and organised approach to environmental enhancement.