

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **COURTOWN HARBOUR**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	17	25
The Built Environment	40	28	22
Landscaping	40	22	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	13
Litter Control	40	25	22
Tidiness	20	15	11
Residential Areas	30	20	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	15	22
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	163	159

Courtown Harbour, Co. Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

No report was provided to outline the phased development of works and therefore it was difficult to establish recent development and where future development was to occur. This should be provided in a simple statement and possibly supported by photographs. Overall the application form was very informative and easily converted into a report to assist future assessment.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is a great atmosphere associated in the town. It is clear that the town is working to maintain a special resort image which is a great credit to the Tidy Town Committee. It is important that both the pedestrian and vehicular areas are separated and clearly defined and this is particularly so at some of the junctions where pedestrians do not seem to be clearly catered for. This is important because of the large numbers of people and children who walk around the town.

LANDSCAPING

There is a very consistent approach throughout the town and the entry areas which provides a very harmonious setting. Of note is that all landscaped areas are well maintained and benefit from an overall landscape approach rather than isolated flower beds which might bring visual discontinuity to the various spaces of the town. The Committee must be complimented in the simple choice of plants and that they extend the surrounding environment into the town rather than isolating the town from its natural landscape features.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The countryside enters the town in a very easy and relaxed manner, allowing for a very integrated approach. This allows for the several feature walks to be part of everyday experience and this should be encouraged. The required Development Plan should demonstrate how this asset will be extended and encouraged, particularly where nature habitats need future management.

LITTER CONTROL

Given the extensive impact of visitors to the town litter control is extraordinarily good and this can be clearly seen through the management taken by many of the shops where no evidence of litter was found.

TIDINESS

This town is a recreational town and has many informal spaces which all present a very cohesive nature in a very relaxed manner.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The colour schemes associated with the gardens along the roads

of the town ensure a lively presentation of colour and add interest to the many walks that can be taken. All gardens are very well tended and greatly add to the landscape setting of the town.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The entry points to the town are very well maintained and simply presented. In general the street edges deserve more attention, particularly with respect to the loose gravel as this detracts from the efforts associated with litter control. The large car park could be tidied up as its use is more seasonal and therefore needs a more permanent landscape setting. The picnic area at the entry to the town is a delight but requires some litter facility as some users of the area are not as keen as the Committee in ensuring a litter-free area.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town employs its surrounding landscape in a very sympathetic manner through connecting with both the surrounding fields and beaches. The varied pedestrian environment established by the random orientation of roads allows for many interesting views to the surrounding landscape. There is a very pleasant mix of residential gardens and rural landscape setting which works in scale and variety of plant material. Of importance to Courtown is maintaining a sense of small spaces connected through a common pattern of garden styles, simple building types and the preservation of the mature landscape features.