

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **FERNS**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-97

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1997 | Mark Awarded 1996 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 28 | 26 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 21 | 20 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 22 | 21 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 15 | 15 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 21 | 18 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 9 | 9 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 22 | 21 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 22 | 21 |
| General Impression | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 166 | 156 |

Ferns, Co. Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The work programme, separate from the application form, is now a requirement. This document is essential in establishing realistic objectives and allows a much more comprehensive assessment of projects undertaken in the Tidy Towns Competition. Often the works proposed occur over several years and thus long term planning can be better explained and adopted strategies more clearly understood through the report rather than yearly application forms. Your application form was very informative and highlighted the issues most relevant to the town and the supporting report submitted by the Ferns Development Association was very helpful in understanding the development of the Cathedral Cemetery. The night lighting of the historic sites around the town creates a spectacular image and illustrates how a simple and effective project can improve the overall setting for the town at night time. The material submitted within the application form was excellent in highlighting the concerns which affect the running of your programme for Ferns and you must be complimented on the outcome of the proposed works.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The current works package being carried out at the cemetery wall will have a significant impact on improving the public space beside the Church and bus stop. This is a committed effort and requires the same attention to detail which is found in other stone walls around the town. Note must be taken of limiting the amount of pointing used between the stones so as to match the traditional finishes already established. The report should highlight how improvements to building facades and thus to the street, i.e. colour, could be handled over a phased programme.

LANDSCAPING

The entry from the Enniscorthy road provides a very pleasant rural image which extends into the centre of the town. You must be complimented on maintaining the natural hedgerows which enter along the roadways as these create a very integrated setting between the town and surrounding countryside. The flower arrangements at strategic points in the town reinforce the important spaces for visitors and the seasonal colour is a very pleasant addition to the streetscapes.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The town actively promotes its connection to historic sites but should also remind people of the very pleasant sites which form long established habitats for birds and other animals associated with Ferns such as rookeries. The desire to construct a wild life garden should use the services of a specialised consultant in wild life design and this can be integrated with the school's programme.

LITTER CONTROL

The town has tackled the problem of litter control in a commendable fashion and the recent improvements are of great benefit to all. The school projects and talks demonstrate the advantages of community participation in this issue. The town was visited on several occasions and on each visit a consistency of litter control was noted.

TIDINESS

The town needs to address an overall image of how to present the street frontages of buildings and should seek greater assistance from the NRA with respect to definition of kerbs along the National Primary route. Where spaces were definitely under the control of residents the standard was high. However there are extensive areas where a creative approach is needed to reduce long term maintenance of the large spaces which need assistance from the Local Authority to help the Tidy Towns Committee in establishing a benefit from their efforts.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The new housing areas are very pleasant and demonstrate a strong commitment to maintaining green amenity spaces associated with residential community spaces.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There are many houses along the roads which need a greater sense of individual presentation to provide greater variety within the different streets. This is beginning to happen with recent improvements to residences along the streets and provides a significant beneficial impact.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ferns is a most interesting urban settlement with a significant variety of spaces and building types. The night lighting of the historic sites presents one of the more memorable images when passing through the town at night time. The need for other projects to acquire the same impact would result from an approach which focuses on an individual project, thus acquiring a greater sense of scale so as to have a better sense of impact in relation to the other improvements. Therefore do not spread out your efforts until one project is satisfactorily completed.