

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **FETHARD-ON-SEA**  
County : **WEXFORD**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	26
The Built Environment	40	29	27
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	15
Litter Control	40	25	27
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	27
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>186</b>

## **Fethard-on-Sea, Co. Wexford**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

No report was provided on a five year plan, however the information provided in the application form was very informative but does not identify the exact strategy which the Committee will be taking. There is quite an extensive area to be covered by the Committee and it must be complimented on the efforts which are produced by quite a small number of people. The provision of a Tourist Office was very helpful in obtaining information on the surrounding area.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The main street is a very fine urban statement. The shop fronts are very well tended and the potted plant displays on the Tea Rooms presents a great splash of colour. The very large planters with trees provide an element of control to the car parking and provide an element of protection to pedestrians. They provide a strong unifying element along the main street and though not fully in flower at the time, the potted plants must provide a strong visual enhancement to the street. The works in front of the Castle on the main street are very well finished, though the area of gravel in front needs better separation from the main road. The tennis court fencing beside the monument creates a very untidy backdrop to an important feature in the town. There is a great range of building types in the town and it is interesting to note how they are separated into individual areas so that the integrity of each area is maintained. The main street is very fine and the provision of outdoor seating at certain points around this area provided a great opportunity to sit and watch people as they used the main street. Perhaps there may be an opportunity of restricting some of the car parking spaces so as to allow a bit more space for pedestrians using these amenities.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Planting done by the bridge has matured very well and serves as a very important connection between the natural landscape setting and the main street. The trees planted along the main street look very well and the occasional splash of colour at strategic areas along the main street provide a lively environment. One tree was broken beside the monument which will need to be replaced and maybe this might offer an opportunity for establishing some screen planting behind the monument which would maintain the building line established by the buildings and screen the tennis courts. The castle grounds looked excellent and in future years when works to the castle have been finished, this will provide a very interesting amenity for visitors. The presentation of the grotto is very pleasant, while the preservation of existing hedgerows which divide up the town is a very simple method to ensure enclosure of new development and not detract from the main street.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The quietness of the town allows the extensive number of bird songs to be easily heard. Possible future plantings should examine the use of native plants as food sources for birds and this would integrate both wild life issues and new landscape works. The required Development Plan should address how the town might better advertise some of the wild life opportunities obtained through its connection with the water features adjacent to the town.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There appeared to be a very clear management plan of litter control which was effective. However it was noted that many children were dropping litter on the streets, but this may be only a seasonal issue as the main street is well provided with litter bins and these are well cared for and placed in prominent positions.

## **TIDINESS**

In general the efforts of litter control are slightly offset by the extensive areas of loose gravel which detracts from the paved surfaces. The re-cycling bins are perhaps too visible and may be too close to an important monument and should perhaps be relocated to a less visible area. The provision of a litter bin beside the re-cycling boxes would aid in ensuring that that space be kept litter free.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

These areas are quite separate from the main street and have developed their own characteristics. All the residential areas are well kept and there are some delightful displays of flowers in some of the gardens. There is a very colourful display in the holiday village which is very effective. The housing estate is well maintained but could do with larger numbers of trees in greater integration between the open space and the front gardens.

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

Entry roads to the town are very good, hedges clean and junctions/roads free of gravel. The bridge creates a delightful entry point to the town and new plantings beside it will hopefully mature and create a balanced setting on both sides of the bridge. The junction of the main street with the road to Hook Head needs further consideration in its presentation as it is an important junction.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

This is a comfortable town to stroll through with many interesting elements to visit. There is a very relaxed and positive presentation of the amenity features and the town has many features which can be developed over the future years to make it a very pleasant place to visit.