

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **FOULKSMILLS**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	24
The Built Environment	40	26	24
Landscaping	40	30	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	17
Litter Control	40	26	23
Tidiness	20	14	11
Residential Areas	30	20	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	190	173

Foulksmills, Co. Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

No Development Plan was provided with the application form and this is needed to ensure the performance of forward planning. The approach taken would seem to be to ensure a very simple image for a village which is very commendable as it is both achievable and allows one to focus on specific items. An example in case would be the waterside park.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The town creates a very simple, pleasant main street image which is unified by the colour of roadside walls. This should be extended to encompass most walls along the street to provide a more cohesive statement. The town pump is simply displayed and not over-stated with plantings which is commendable, while the presentation of all buildings along the main street show great pride in being associated with the developments of the town. The new plantings and floral displays associated with the Co-op provide a good finish to that side of the street. All the very well tended buildings ensure a very pleasant village environment. The fence in front of the Co-op is in need of some repair work, particularly as it contrasts with the very fine landscaping being carried out in front.

LANDSCAPING

Some weeds on the entry roads do not detract from the overall relaxed image of entering this very sylvan town. The mallows planted along the entry road near the public house look great and the use of native planting along the riverside reinforces the connection of the main street to the surrounding countryside. The park is a very pleasant feature and very well tended and deserves recommendation for a waterside award.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is not addressed in any particular statement except for a recognition in the sanctuary. However there are many actions being done in the town that demonstrate a concern for integrating with wild life issues. The use of significant numbers of native plant material demonstrates a very clear understanding of the need to encourage the wild life in the town, while at the same time local hedges proudly display the native honeysuckle and many of the associated shade plants. Interest is noted as to what will happen to the ditch beside one of the entry roads and this could be a most interesting feature on entering the town. Note must also be taken that the oak tree may require some selective tree pruning as it is a very fine tree. The extensive numbers of native oak trees surrounding the town should be examined for propagation as there is a limited source of such trees.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is excellent overall and it was obvious that a management plan was in place as none of the children using the

street at the time seemed to drop any litter. Where they put the litter was unknown as litter bins were not evident. There was some litter around the Co-op and this could be easily solved by the provision of a single litter bin close by.

TIDINESS

The loose gravel and dust along the main road edges detracts from the litter free environment and perhaps the road edges need to be more clearly defined.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

These are very well kept and extend the sense of amenity for the town as the private gardens have lots of colour. The hanging baskets on the cottages provide a strong splash of colour and look very well. The area beside the public house may require some additional plantings so as to control cars parking too close to the corner and seek a better setting.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All roads into Foulksmills are enclosed by very large trees which provide quite a different entry sequence than most towns in the area. This makes a strong impression on entering the town and perhaps some thoughts could be shared on how the two ends of the main street might be better connected with this strong theme already established by the mature trees. Some consideration should be given to the defining of the road edges along the main street, but essentially the main street is a very fine space.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It is a pleasant experience to visit Foulksmills with its sylvan character which is enhanced by the use of mature plant material within the village. The Committee must be congratulated on making Foulksmills a very special place to visit and to stop and rest in.