

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILMUCKRIDGE**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-97

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1997 | Mark Awarded 1996 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 25 | 25 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 30 | 26 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 24 | 23 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 14 | 13 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 25 | 23 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 10 | 11 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 18 | 16 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 25 | 21 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 6 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 178 | 164 |

Kilmuckridge, Co. Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The application form was very informative in providing updated information on the projects but this must be supported by a thorough report highlighting the goals and objectives of the Committee so as to understand the larger picture of the Committee's role in the town. The general approach is one of a strong control over the entire town and new projects are easily seen as marked improvements, while past projects do not suffer from being left behind. This reflects a very balanced concern to both past and future projects which provides an integrated and long term approach.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is a very strong theme of traditional architectural setting being developed with the centre of the town which must be commended as it is a delight to see the handling of the new colours and interesting elements to the buildings. The pedestrian areas are clearly defined which is good because of some of the sightlines are rather obscured by walls and curves in the road alignment. There is a need to integrate more barrier-free detailing as there are some tripping hazards in some of the very pleasing settings, while all the commercial developments are colourful. The large new sign in the car park did not seem to integrate with the building theme and was very large for such a small urban space.

LANDSCAPING

The improvements to the centre of the village with the new planter unit is going to be a great benefit in reducing the scale of the car parking area as the plantings mature in future years. This is an important element in extending the soft landscaping through the village and connects two sides of the village in a very pleasant manner. The Committee must be complimented in not having random groupings of flower beds around the spaces, but rather focusing on single important areas such as the centre and entry roads. This creates a more harmonious integration with the surrounding rural setting.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is an area of the 3-5 year report which can emphasise the approach that is being taken to develop or extend this resource. One of the problems with this area is not to make efforts seem forced. There is a very strong connection with the surrounding countryside in this village which provides ample opportunities for addressing this element. Consideration should be given to the policy of planting more native plants and not as many exotics or short term plants. The use of wild flowers is often both easier to maintain and provides longer periods of colour. The connection with the stream may be an area of interest, the integration of the bird boxes must be commended as they were not seen and often

when these are so visible they seem to detract from the wildlife concerns.

LITTER CONTROL

Though stated as an on-going problem, the efforts by the village would seem to demonstrate a very effective approach in controlling litter. New bins would help if strategically placed but this may be more a seasonal problem that just requires a stringent management policy. The recycling bins are well placed and do not visually detract from the street appearance, perhaps a litter bin at this area may allow the space to be easier to keep clean from a long term objective, even though the space was very clean at the times of visiting.

TIDINESS

The lack of litter is offset by the excessive amount of signs placed randomly around the town and have the effect of visually detracting from many of the exceptional efforts to both landscaping and built improvements. This is the one area of concern that requires a policy or effective management approach so that the village does not establish a long-term problem which may not be possible to control. With respect to the landscape maintenance of the open areas around the town, everything was very well tended.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Individual houses were very well tended and provided some spectacular displays of plants and colour, for which they must be commended, as this diminishes the need to ensure that public areas must be planted to have the colours.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All entry roads were neat and tidy, though some loose gravel was on the road surfaces which detracts from the well maintained kerbs. The grass cutting ensured that all areas were very presentable.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village has some very beautiful qualities in integrating with the surrounding landscape which adds to it's rural atmosphere. The scale of the new works compliment the relaxed setting. Of greatest concern are the signs which seem to dominate many of the side roads and their presentation should be tackled.