

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **POULPEASTY**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	20
The Built Environment	40	30	28
Landscaping	40	27	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	12
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	29
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	188	181

Poulpeasty, Co. Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The application form and map were informative in providing 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 village. The general approach is one of a strong control over the entire village, however new projects were not easily separated from past projects. The emphasis on developing a strong maintained image at the school and the space opposite the Church is very well handled and an overall master plan for 3-4 years would be helpful in ensuring an understanding of the specific approach being taken.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment of this village is very well maintained and strongly balanced with the relationship of the landscape grounds to the buildings. The scale or level of development is minimal but effectively presented through the extensive gardens associated with each property. The very simple colour choice and clean lines of the Church structure allows one of those few instances where a traditional building is so sensitively presented and further set-off by the spectacular tree. The school building establishes a strong image on the road.

LANDSCAPING

The level of exotic plantings throughout the townland is extensive and its high standard in the level of maintenance is a credit to the efforts of the Committee. The range of colours and plant specimens allows great interest to any person stopping to examine the layouts. The effective treatment is quite important in connecting two very separate parts of the village and must be quite colourful through many seasons. Of concern might be the quantity of exotic plant material that is inclined to visually separate the treated areas from the surrounding fields and hedgerows. Though this is not a criticism, an assessment of the appropriateness of extending the treatment further along existing hedgerows might be made.

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 issue is to ensure efforts do not appear to be 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 a longer period of colour. The non-excessive maintenance of the grass sided earthen berms leading south-west from the Church is an example

of creating a natural setting which must be commended. The future treatment of some of the flower beds will provide an opportunity to integrate and extend concerns associated with this issue.

LITTER CONTROL

All areas were free of litter which imply an effective litter policy. There may be a need for some litter bins to be placed in strategic areas such as beside the school as they can reduce the continual attention required at litter source points.

TIDINESS

The extensive maintenance programme of the planted areas ensures an effective tidiness to all areas.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is not a significant presence of residential areas in this village and as such there is not the level of impacts that would ordinarily effect the presentation of residential areas. The level of attention to the gardens is consistently high.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The entrance roads to the village are in very good condition and very little loose gravel is associated with the surfaces. The treatment of the front areas, such as the school, is very presentable.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village was visited on separate occasions (once in the evening) and demonstrated an exemplary level of tidiness. Perhaps the greatest impression is that of the extensive new plantings which are very well tended and serve to make something quite special of the local environment. However the quantity of small scale plants do not serve to produce a long term environmental improvement which at present is solely dependent on an established maintenance programme. Consideration should be given to integrating some of the planted areas with the surrounding plant communities and establishing some longer term planting schemes that may mature in future decades. These are only observations and not directed as criticisms as the extensive efforts made by the Committee are of a high standard.