

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KNOCKANANNA**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	31
The Built Environment	40	24	22
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	14
Litter Control	40	27	28
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	191	185

Knockananna, County Wicklow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed questionnaire, map and detailed comments which were helpful during the course of adjudication. The adjudicators enjoyed their visit to Knockananna and look forward to further improvements next year. Try to prepare your detailed plan, which should be simple and realistic covering 3 - 5 pages and a map, and try to get greater interest from your local authority, business community, schools etc. The visibility of the Irish language was in emphasis in this years competition. The plan should also incorporate features, such as historical and cultural uniqueness, bilingualism and accessibility for elderly and disabled. The adjudicators will look for attention to details of all areas of the competition. It was fantastic to see the developments coming on stream at the thatched cottages and in the development of the old peoples homes - congratulations to the community on this initiative and good luck with future plans, e.g. the swimming pool. In relation to bilingualism, is there any significance in the name Cnoc an Eanaigh.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Congratulations again on the work done in developing the thatched cottages. It is good to see maintenance of such traditions. It was also good to see the church and museum (Blanchville Centre) had been painted but, unfortunately, it was closed at time of adjudication. The Health Centre had also been freshly painted, well done. Watch the weeds outside the GAA boundary wall. It would be nice if the school could be painted also, to complement the other buildings.

LANDSCAPING

The walls at the cottage had not yet been finished at time of adjudication. It was nice to see that the Credit Union was completed. Congratulations on the effort in maintaining the bedding areas. It is obvious that these have the involvement of local people as well through good maintenance - replace one dead tree in one of these beds. The graveyard was well maintained and the rockery was well presented again.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Conserving nature is a new venture for many towns and can appear daunting at first. The adjudicators recognise that environmental programmes can take time to get up and running and even longer to assess their success. This section of the report requires an involvement of all groups, including schools in the village. The emphasis is on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats. The committee needs to identify the habitats in their area and then determine the appropriate actions to conserve and enhance these habitats. Guidelines in

the Tidy Towns book offers other suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. Is there a local wildlife expert, or a member of the community with experience in this area, that your committee can draw on? In preparing an environmental programme for the village, there should be a year-round participation in environmental protection and promotion involving all members of the community and providing access for all. The next step is to identify what habitats are in your area - are these woodlands, wetlands, grasslands or coastal habitats, or other habitats such as cemeteries, walls etc. Prepare a survey and map, showing the areas of wildlife importance and areas of potential importance. Other steps involved in the preparation of the environmental programme for Knockananna would include identification of species list of the flora and fauna in the area; preparation of a wildlife management plan as part of the area development plan; work to be carried out including conservation projects, wildlife gardens, areas of conservation, access, tree planting, information areas etc. This must be carried out in sympathy with the local landscape and must not be overwhelming visually, or environmentally. The adjudicators commend your initiative in seeking to develop a nature walk, good luck in this regard. Good treatment was given to hedgerows allowing for the development of these habitats, yet at the same time taking a mowing regime and keeping relatively tidy, for example, on the Hacketstown Road. There is plenty of wildlife around the village of Knockananna.

LITTER CONTROL

The adjudicators initial impression under this category was excellent; however, the adjudicators were very disappointed to see the level of litter on Back Bawns Lane, which is unacceptable and totally out of character with the rest of the village - try to ensure that this does not recur. It was good to see new bins having been put in place. The only other place where litter was noted was sprinklings outside The Wagon Wheels and small amounts on the approaches from Ballygobbin and Rathdangan.

TIDINESS

It was good to see cobble locking at the petrol station which creates a nice impression. Try to watch the weeds by kerbs, and generally throughout the village and on the pathway into the church. Try to also tidy up the rear of Jacobs Bar. Watch for illegal fly posting. In the long term, resurfacing and kerbing is needed throughout the village and try to sweep up the gravel.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

In general, most premises make a good effort in maintaining and enhancing their premises. New developments coming on stream are helping to improve the overall appearance in this category, for example, the thatched cottages and the old peoples homes. Very good individual efforts were noted, for example, the house on the approach road from Tinahely on the left hand side had a good effort. The tree house is unique and the terrace was okay at time of adjudication. The house on the left hand side approach from

Hacketstown takes from the overall approach due to lack of painting.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach road from Tinahely, the new 30 MPH sign was noted. Try to paint the Tinahely finger post sign and cut and landscape the verge near here. Approaching from Aughrim, also this approach needs to be landscaped, but allowances were made for developments taking place here. Approaching from Hacketstown was very good; try to paint the Knockananna sign. A new wall was noted on the Main Street by Back Bawns Lane, congratulations on this. Trees are coming on well on the Rathdangan approach - try to replace the junction sign. New 30 MPH signs were also noted. Along the Main Street, the need for resurfacing takes from the overall appearance and you are going to have to tackle this in the long term in order to generate additional marks here.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression of Knockananna this year is that it is a village back by very strong community involvement and efforts. The adjudicators commend your efforts to date. They look forward to your five year plan, which should be simple, yet realistic. In this regard, you are going to have to come to terms with the resurfacing of the road as this takes from the overall appearance. Good luck for 1998.