

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KINGSCOURT**  
County : **CAVAN**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 16-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>160</b>

## **Kingscourt, County Cavan.**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

This adjudicator would like to thank you for your completed questionnaire and map, they were very helpful. Your concise five year plan outlining the targets for the committee, could be expanded further to highlight more specific aspects of the work programme. As mentioned in last year's report, your enthusiastic efforts in the cosmetic presentation of the town, could be widened to focus on developing the other important aspects of the town to their full potential.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Kingscourt has potentially an impressive main street, with its many fine buildings. The flower features, trees and some brightly painted buildings all contribute to the overall impression, but there are still some features and buildings that need attention to further enhance the appearance of the town. Carlans looked lovely, nicely presented and maintained. The two houses down from it with the nice railings, were also well presented, but highlighted the poor presentation of the railings between them and the StatOil Station, which also looked well. Malone's, Muldoon's the Tourist Office and M & F Stores also looked well. There are still some plastic signs and features that could be replaced by more traditional means of presentation. The Church of Ireland and grounds looked very well with its lovely stone wall. It was good to see last years comments were noted and the small car park opposite the church now looks tidy with some colourful flowers. The red bricked Parochial Hall also looked well. There are many private and commercial buildings on this street that need attention. St. Joseph's school looked well, but the sidewall and Health Centre area needs attention, the wall needs to be repaired and the forecourt area tidied. The Hanger factory looked well presented with an attractive forecourt and shrub bed. The Catholic Church and grounds looked well, as did the Graveyard and Garda Station. St. Mary's Hall with its hanging baskets looked very well. A nicely maintained and painted stone building was also noted beside the tidy Nissan Garage. The community Centre development is ongoing, and will hopefully encompass the very unsightly HandBall Alley. Dereliction is a challenge faced by many competition entrants, and the committee must remain persistent in this area, if the overall impression of the town is to be improved. We look forward to the development of the Railway Station Project, which demonstrates the original utilisation of an old building in the town.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The landscape features, roundabouts and the many tubs and baskets, throughout the village were well cared for, and provided a splash of colour to the whole streetscape. The trees will certainly

enhance the entire streetscape when they mature. The nice stone wall and planting were also noted at the entrance to the attractively presented football grounds. There are some old lamp posts around the town that could be painted a standard colour, possibly introducing a standard town colour for all the street furnishings, features and signs. Similarly the very unusual old pump, close to the Talbot Hall, with its attractive hedge feature could also do with some attention to improve its presentation. As mentioned in last years report consideration now must be given to developing more permanent and integrated landscaping features, that may help tackle the presentation of derelict and untidy open spaces in the town. Consideration must also be given to the choice of plants so that they will provide enjoyment, colour and content throughout the year.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

There are many opportunities for enhancing and conserving wildlife habitats and the environment within the town. Open spaces, ponds, riverbanks, meadows and grass areas and hedgerows all offer opportunities within this category. Work in conjunction with relevant local bodies, or a local wildlife expert to develop this area. Wild flower areas, and Nature Trails could be developed in conjunction with local schools.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was some litter in evidence on the day of adjudication, both on the Main Street, and in some of the open spaces on the back streets. Some litter was also evident in the forecourt of the Health Centre, but the approach roads were virtually litter free, your litter campaign appears to be having some effect. Continue your new litter bin campaign, and your education programme in the local schools, it is a worthwhile effort. Also continue your promotional campaign within the community as it reinforces everyone's responsibility in this very important area.

## **TIDINESS**

The overall impression of tidiness in town was generally poor, though some individual property owners have tidy, well presented properties. Dereliction, poor presentation of premises, and open spaces has been previously highlighted in last years report, and again elsewhere in this year's report. It is also important to keep the forecourts, yards, boundary walls and alleyways tidy and weed free throughout the town. Backyards and gates should also be kept clean and tidy, with untidy areas screened by gates, fences or hedges. Clarke & Gibson's forecourt remains very unsightly, and Pat's and Treasa's Shops had a lot of produce on the street, that both looked untidy, and could interfere with access for those with disabilities. Mackins Hotel and forecourt also look untidy. Some posters were noted on poles. The recycling bins were tidy, but look to be inaccessible in the evening time when the Car Park barrier is in place. The adjudicator did note some improvements since last year, and hopes the Committee will sustain their efforts

in tackling the presentation of the town, and encouraging individual owners to play their part.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Some houses in the town, in the housing developments and on approach roads, were well presented, with attractive hedges, lawns and flower features. Mount St. Joseph's had a well cared for green area, with some nice flowerbeds, and individual gardens, but the road surface needs some attention. Some tree planting here would also enhance this area. Fairymount looked very well, with some lovely tree planting, hanging baskets and individual gardens noted. As mentioned in last year's report, some boundary walls and forecourts need attention. The stone and brick cottages beside Gilmores caught the eye, as did the tidy house and forecourt on the left townside of the Garage. There was some nice residences and gardens opposite the entrance to the Forest Park, one in particular was beautifully landscaped and maintained.

## **ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

As the approach roads are the first impression a visitor gets of the village they deserve particular consideration. Generally footpaths, weeds, boundary walls and open spaces all need attention throughout the Town, and on approach roads. Your new strimmer is showing good effect, with grass verges looking tidy on the approach roads. The improvements on the Bailiboro Road were noted but some boundary areas still need attention, and the empty factory area still looks neglected. The Kells Road had some attractive stone walls and planting outside some of the houses but the area around the Fire Station needs to be tidied. The grass area, hedges and trees looked well maintained on the Ardee Road, and presumably the area around the Railway Station entrance will be tidied when this development gets underway. Although once again the footpaths need attention, with some weeds at boundary walls noted, a similar situation existed on the Dublin Road in places. Dereliction, untidy forecourts and poor presentation are all issues that also need to be addressed on the approach roads.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Kingscourt is a town that has not yet fully recognised or achieved its full potential. It is good to see that you have a large and active committee, and that you have good support from the community with regards to fund-raising, and voluntary litter collection. You should expand on this by developing your relations with local bodies and organisations that could help you with advice and practical assistance. Last years comments, mentioned earlier in this year's report, and tackling the weaker areas that detract from the town, should be the focus for plans and efforts in the future. This adjudicator noted the improvements since last year's report, but it is important to sustain and increase this momentum towards developing all aspects of your town.