

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **FIDDOWN**  
County : **KILKENNY**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	--
The Built Environment	40	23	--
Landscaping	40	25	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	--
Litter Control	40	26	--
Tidiness	20	14	--
Residential Areas	30	18	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	--
General Impression	10	6	--
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>--</b>

## **Fiddown, County Kilkenny**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

After a lapse of 8 years, we welcome Fiddown back into the competition and wish them every success in it. Since your last entry the competition has changed somewhat with new categories and headings. Following a visit to Fiddown the following comments are by way of adjudication and advice as to how you might proceed in the competition from here on. It is encouraging to see the support you are getting from your local community and the level of commitment from your local authority, Kilkenny Tourism and FAS all of which will have a bearing on how successful you will be in the competition. Thank you also for your simple 3 year plan. You should endeavour, from now on, with the assistance of the above mentioned bodies, to put some detail on this plan in terms of work to be carried out and deadlines to be met. This, of course can only be done within your physical and financial resources. In the event a copy of this more detailed plan will be very useful when sending in your entry for 1999.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The village is quite small and mainly residential with some business premises. Most premises looked well on adjudication day. But there will always be room for improvement and this will be a matter for consultation with the owners as part of the more detailed plan. Work at the Pier was noted and we look forward to seeing further development taking place there next year with some landscaping. Work which was taking place on the old church was also noted. When completed and when the graveyard is refurbished, this whole project could become a focal point of the village. Possible uses could be a heritage centre or a venue for the display of arts and crafts. We look forward to seeing progress on this next year.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Excellent work has been done on providing flower beds. For the future however, perhaps you will consider a judicious planting of trees and shrubs for the purpose of softening the landscape. Careful planning however is necessary as to plant too many would only cause clutter. Think also in terms of shrubs of a flowering type which will give you some colour on an all year round basis. Flower beds are excellent but need constant attention, particularly during warm weather. Consult with your local authority, Coillte, or some qualified person in your plan.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Your comments regarding the Pier have been noted. This area was visited on adjudication day and certainly is an ideal locality for a wildlife project. This is a comparatively new category in the

competition with the emphasis on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, grass margins, open spaces, graveyards, and walls are important habitats and your Committee should try to identify areas where these habitats exist and then determine the best approach to their conservation and enhancement. The guidelines in the Tidy Towns book offer suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might take. If there is a local wildlife expert or a member of your Committee with experience in this area please do use their knowledge. Until such time as a project is up and running a nominal mark has been given in this category this year.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was almost no litter to be seen on the main streets in Fiddown on adjudication day. Congratulations to all concerned. Litter needs constant monitoring as it is the one area which can get out of control quite easily due to influences outside the control of the Committee.

## **TIDINESS**

The village in general was presented in a very neat and tidy manner. Please do remember that adjudicators also look around the back roads and streets. The adjudication is not just confined to the main thorough fares.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

In general individual houses were excellent. Many have very nice gardens which are an important aspect of the competition. It would be important to set up a resident's association and to have members of such an association on your Committee particularly in a small village like Fiddown where private houses are predominant.

## **ROADS, STREET AND BACK AREAS**

The adjudication normally takes place from either the speed limits signs or the village name plate signs, whichever you opt for. In the case of Fiddown there is a lot of work needed on these approaches by way of cutting of verges and hedges. In this respect however, the latest thinking suggests that grass margins should not be cut too severely with some provision left for the growing of wild flowers. In other words, instead of cutting right back to the hedge cut within a foot or two of it leaving a grass margin for the growing of these flowers. In the village itself there is also a need for verge cutting and for weed control.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Overall Fiddown is a nice village with some interesting stonework and some excellent stone buildings which could be a feature of the Tidy Towns effort. In the absence of large scale open spaces,

flower boxes and hanging baskets can also be used but not to excess. Tubs of flowers that have been provided are excellent but do need constant maintenance. Consider perhaps through one of the paint manufacturers, enlisting the assistance of a colour consultant to come up with an overall colour scheme for the village. Such services, where available, are usually provided free. Get in touch with your local Regional Tourism Authority in Kilkenny who will be willing to meet with you and show you some videos which have been prepared on the competition and which will give a general idea on what other centres are doing. Do also visit other centres who have done well in the competition, such as, Inistioge, Kilkenny city, Ardmore in County Waterford and Rossadrehid in South Tipperary.