

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **FRESHFORD**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	30
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	27	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	198	191

Freshford, County Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Congratulations to Freshford on winning the best new entry in the competition in 1997 and thank you indeed for all the information sent with the entry form and the map which was most useful on adjudication day. It is gratifying to see that the effort continues at the same high level as last year with continued support from your local authority, local clubs, commercial business and local residents. Your plan makes very interesting reading and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing further developments take place for 1999. In that respect a map showing where these developments have taken place will be most useful. The following are by way of comments on the progress you have made this year and should be read in context with the 1997 report.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Dereliction is still a problem with you and your comments in this respect have been noted. It is nice to read that some progress in this respect is being made. Business premises again were very well presented as were your main public buildings- churches, school, GAA pitch, Squash Club, etc. The continued involvement of all those concerned with these premises is vital to your overall effort. It is interesting to note your comment regarding the possibility of a joint colour scheme for some of the residential areas. This has been done very successfully in the past in other towns and villages. It would be particularly appropriate to the Square.

LANDSCAPING

The Green is, of course, the focal point of the town and improvements there were noted including your new lampposts and hanging baskets which looked very nice. In passing it should be mentioned the planting of flowers at the base of trees is not now considered to be the thing to do. It is felt that trees should be left in their natural state. It is noted that in some cases this has happened in the Square and, in your plan, you intend to carry out similar development in the future. As mentioned in last year's report please do take the best advice available on this either through your local authority or Coillte. Tubs of flowers, window boxes and hanging baskets looked extremely well where presented and are being well maintained. Well done to all concerned. This is a big improvement on last year. The Green was generally well presented but was in the need of cutting. It is appreciated that because of its size, this is a difficult task particularly in wet weather. However, as stated, the Green is the focal point of the village and should have a crisp look.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your involvement with the gun Club is to be commended. Please do however look at other projects under this heading which is a comparatively new section in the competition. In the event it will have the effect of gaining you some extra marks. Comments made in last year's report are still applicable. Please do take the best advice possible.

LITTER CONTROL

There was no evidence of litter in the centre of Freshford on adjudication day. There was however some littering to be seen in the vicinity of the church and the stream, with some littering in the stream itself. This is an area of the competition which needs constant monitoring. Your FAS worker was seen in action on adjudication day. Housing estates were also comparatively free of litter. Great credit is due to all concerned.

TIDINESS

The town was presented in a very neat and tidy manner and again, well done to all concerned. However comments regarding hanging signs etc. last year are still applicable and might be an item you might discuss with your commercial sector partners.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Both major housing estates- Woodview and Ard Lachtain were visited and both were very well presented. Open spaces however needed cutting but this did not take away from the overall presentation of these two areas. Congratulations to the residents involved. Individual houses again looked very well, many with excellent gardens which were in full bloom on adjudication day giving a great splash of colour. As well as collectively there is obviously a high level of individual pride amongst residents of Freshford in their own environment.

ROADS, STREET AND BACK AREAS

In general approach roads were good, the best probably being from the Johnstown direction. Road surfaces have improved and pathways looked well and are being well maintained. Do however take cognisance of the matter raised in last year's report regarding the propagation of wild flowers.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Further progress in the competition will be made by attention to detail. Your planning is excellent and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing the results of this next year. Freshford has improved again this year. Bear in mind that success in the Tidy Towns competition does not come overnight but is as a result of many years of planned activity. Keep in touch with your local authority and other bodies and your Regional Tourism Authority based in Kilkenny who annually run a Tidy towns seminar with guest speakers which is well worth attending. You might also consider

visiting other centres who have been successful in the competition such as Ardmore, County Waterford, Inistioge, Bennettsbrige, Rossadrehid in South Tipperary and indeed Kilkenny City. In the event you could meet with their committee and learn from them as many of these had similar problems to what you have now.