

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **URLINGFORD**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	30	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	218	213

Urlingford, County Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is indeed gratifying to read of the support you are receiving from your local community, commercial interests, clubs, Local Authority, etc. and this support is being reflected in the excellent work which is taking place in Urlingford. The fact that you are working on a 3/5 year plan is also noted. Urlingford has now reached the stage in the competition where attention to detail will be all important, hence the need for planning. The following is by way of comment on the progress you have been making and should be read in context with the 1996 and 1997 reports.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Commercial premises again continue to reach an extremely high standard and special mention must be made of the garages and ancillary services at both ends of the town. While not taking away from the many fine commercial premises, particularly in the main street, it has to be said that these premises were exceptionally well presented and deserve the highest praise. Public buildings looked extremely well again and a special mention must be made of the library, church and schools and their surroundings which are maintaining a high level of maintenance and presentation.

LANDSCAPING

Your work under this heading has been remarkable and will be entered by the adjudicator for the Landscaping Award. For residents and visitors alike the sight of so many trees and flowers must indeed provide great pleasure and the highest congratulations to all concerned. The pre-cast concrete wall at the Freshford junction does however take away somewhat from the overall visual aspect of the excellent landscaping there. Perhaps some thought could be given to this.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As stated in last years report this a comparatively a new category in the competition. While your comments regarding Goul Gardens are noted you might give some consideration to other aspects of this section as set out in the Tidy Towns book and mentioned in last years report. It is a heading under which additional marks can be gained.

LITTER CONTROL

The litter warden will certainly be a great additional to your Tidy Towns effort in Urlingford. Unfortunately on adjudication day, while

the main street was completely litter free, some of the approach roads and housing estates were not. In the case of the latter it would be important, if you have not already done so, to have representation on your committee from Residents Associations(should they exist), bearing in mind that the adjudicator does visit housing estates and back areas. The adjudication is not just confined to main streets. It is a pity that this should happen as it took away from an otherwise fine presentation of the town.

TIDINESS

There has been a perceived improvement in tidiness this year. Please however do give some attention to the amount of footpath furniture which seems to be appearing outside some shops, which can prove an obstacle to the physically handicapped or those with short sight.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

All housing estates in the town were visited including St. Marys Avenue, St. Josephs Terrace, Emerald Gardens etc. The area around St. Josephs Terrace is, of course, exceptional and the community of St Marys Avenue are again to be congratulated on the fine presentation of their open space this year. Individual houses were again excellent this year, some with magnificent gardens in full bloom.

ROADS, STREET AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads were presented in an excellent manner and evidence of work taking place was to be seen on adjudication day. Road surfaces are good and paths look well and are being well maintained. It was noted that, in some areas, kerbsides were slanted for the purpose of wheel chair accessibility.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall general impression was one of a community both of residents and commercial life taking great pride in their environment and who are intent on keeping it so. Unfortunately there was no map with your entry form which meant that perhaps some areas of development possibly were not seen but having visited all aspects of your work the adjudicator can only say "well done" to all concerned. Do keep in touch with your State bodies. Contact your Regional Tourism Authority(RTA) in Kilkenny who run an annual seminar for Tidy Towns groups with guest speakers and which is well worth attending. The adjudicator looks forward to visiting Urlingford again next year at which time you will hopefully have started to implement your long term plan.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (15/08/98)

It is a pity that you did not include a map with the entry form. While the main road approaches were well presented the side

roads were in need of attention - long grass and nettles were tending to fall over on to the roadway. The designated green areas, on the other hand, were all beautifully mown and the prolific flowers were all in full bloom. Some poorly maintained expansive yards and particularly the derelict area by the fire station detract from the many excellent works by individuals in the presentation of their property. In visual terms there is still too much clutter on the main street, partly created by the advertising hoardings but just as much by superfluous advertising signage and stickers together with goods and signage on the paths as previously mentioned. Once again the public buildings were truly admired.