

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **WINDGAP**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	24
The Built Environment	40	23	21
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	195	186

Windgap, County Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Since last year it is obvious that quite an amount of work has been done and your Committee is to be congratulated on this. It is also encouraging to know that you are receiving assistance from your local Community including farmers and contractors and that you are enlisting also the assistance of the Local Authority, your Parish Council and FAS. Success in the Tidy Towns Competition only comes about as a result of a concerted effort by all concerned bearing in mind that success is not achieved overnight but is a result of many years of effort. Your letter to Kilkenny County Council is noted, the contents of which would seem to indicate that a lot still remains to be done.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Community Hall and its surroundings looked extremely well on adjudication day. The surroundings in particular were very tidy. Unfortunately, the Land League House is still a problem and needs a lot of work to be done to it. The School, the GAA Park and the recreation area were very well presented this year as well as the Church, the two cemeteries and the Grotto. Guinans Lounge Bar premises achieved its usual high standard and the Avonmore premises was reasonably well presented again. However, the buildings on the opposite side of the road are still a problem and take away considerably from the overall appearance of the whole area which includes the wildlife park. Perhaps this is a matter which you can also take up with your Local Authority who have powers in such matters. Overall there has been a considerable improvement in Windgap under this heading.

LANDSCAPING

Again there has been a big improvement under this heading this year. Window boxes, tubs of flowers and some judiciously placed flowerbeds have greatly enhanced the appearance of the village and are being well maintained. The placing of pictures on the hoarding in the Main Street is an excellent idea as is the mural on the gable end of the building at the main corner. The whole area at that junction has greatly improved since last year and congratulations are due to all concerned. The Village Pump is also a very nice feature.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your wildlife area continues to be the focal point of the village and has again been nominated by the adjudicator for consideration for the Wildlife Award. Please continue your excellent work here but do constantly monitor the lakes for odd pieces of floating litter.

LITTER CONTROL

Windgap was almost completely free of litter on adjudication day. Congratulations to all concerned. This is an aspect of the Competition which needs continuous monitoring and it is encouraging to read that you have been able to involve the local school children in this project.

TIDINESS

The completion of the new houses in the Main Street has added considerably to that section of the village which was presented in a very neat and tidy manner on adjudication day.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Individual homes were again well presented and, where available, gardens looked exceptionally well and full of colour. The open areas in Rosenaney Court however were in need of cutting in order to give them that crisp look. With the co-operation of local residents you might consider introducing a colour scheme into the village. This could be done in consultation with a colour consultant from one of the leading paint manufacturers, a service which normally comes free. This is suggested for areas where the architecture is very much alike - not necessarily for individual private homes.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces are good but your comments to Kilkenny County Council regarding your footpaths have been noted. Approach roads in general were reasonably well presented but there is a need for hedge and verge trimming. Adjudication normally takes place from either the speed limit or the village nameplate signs, whichever you opt for, so it is important to have the areas from there on in trimmed and well presented at adjudication time.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There has been a big improvement in Windgap in 1998. This will be reflected in the marks achieved. However, there is still a good deal of work to be done in the areas of dereliction, approach roads, the improvement of the "built environment", etc. You should endeavour to draw up a 3/5 year plan in consultation with your local authority, FAS and your community groups using this and past adjudicators reports as a basis. Try to do a certain amount each year within your physical and financial resources and within a planned time scale. Windgap is a delightful place and has the potential to do well in the Competition.