

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **FINEA**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 25-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	219	213

Finea, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

On driving into and walking throughout the village, there was a sense of pride and evidence of involvement by the Community in the presentation of the village. It was raining a great deal, however after a while the sun came out, and the village seemed to sparkle in the sunlight and with the rows of boats on the river, it looked very well - well done on the work carried out. Two areas do need to be addressed and can increase your progression in the competition in the future; tree maintenance and the wild/vacant area beside the estate.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The buildings in and around the village looked well and were nice painted. The national school and church on the Oldcastle road were very well presented - well done. The Graveyard on the Mullingar road was neat and tidy and well painted. In the village, Clarke's was fine and Wittys Rock pub looked very well with the wall creepers. In general the painting schemes used by premises are to be complemented. The pump will, however, require a coat of paint before next year. The Garda Station over the river looked well.

LANDSCAPING

There were an abundance of plants in pots and windowboxes which looked well on display throughout the village. You would be advised against planting around the base of trees as this draws nutrition and moisture away from the tree and detracts from the simple beauty of the tree form itself. New hedging on the Mullingar approach is commendable and there was also nice planting in the green area on the Mullingar road. The area of landscaping beside the river was excellently presented. There were lifebuoys, litterbins, litter signs all well kept. The grass was cut, however a couple of the trees needed attention and possible replacement. In the village, opposite the small estate, could the open area be managed as a wildflower meadow? Seek advice from those who could advise you on this matter if it is a possibility. Landscaping looked well and commendation must go to the planting of trees on the west side of the bridge and at the church.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The village is fortunate in having the river running through it. How can this be enhanced? A resource assessment of what can be seen and how it could be enhanced (maybe just left alone) should be set out again seeking advice from those knowledgeable in this area. Other habitats that can be found in the area include meadow and hedgerow. These again should be considered and points set out as to how they can be enhanced and managed. School

involvement may be possible. This is the section of the competition where marks can be scored in the future. The river walks are a good idea and the resource assessment could be run in conjunction with this project. It was good to see a bird box in one of the houses in the small estate - this could be encouraged throughout the village.

LITTER CONTROL

There was almost no evidence of litter on the day of adjudication - well done. There were plenty of litter bins and several signs regarding litter. It is good to see that you have an annual cleanup to heighten awareness.

TIDINESS

Overall a tidy village - well done. There were a number of items that need attention - the railings around the shrubby area need repairing and rebending - did a car go into them? There were also some building bricks beside a house - just ensure that these are removed once work is complete. A traffic cone was on the pavement opposite Wittys Rock for no apparent reason and should be removed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses looked very well. Those in the estate were fine though perhaps a co-ordinated effort with regards to pot plant/hanging basket presentation would look well. The houses on the main street were painted very tastefully and those that presented floral displays must be commended.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road signs were clear and fresh and all roads were well cut back, neat and tidy. An advance sign located closer to the school could be considered. In cutting the grassy verges, do consider to allow some wildflowers and ferns through the hedges and grassy area. It is the management of hedges and grassy areas that is required and the enhancement of the village through its natural resources that is encouraged. The approach road from Granard needed the most attention out of all the approach roads, though the standard was high. The back areas were also very clean and well presented.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Finea is a very pleasant village, which is progressing well in the competition. As mentioned before, concentrate on maintaining the standard in all categories. Under wild life and landscaping set out objectives and detail how further progress can be made there. The village was a pleasure to visit - well done and good luck with future work.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (11/08/98)

The charming and historically significant village of Finea was as much of a pleasure to visit as ever. Buildings throughout the village generally looked very fresh. Of particular note being Ledwith's Post Office in yellow with green trims. There were attractive displays of hanging baskets and window boxes throughout the village. In another aspect of the landscaping of Finea, the colourful incidental planted bed and grass verge to the front of the tin roofed shed on the Mullingar side of the village was beautifully maintained. The railings to the focal point monument and the village pump had both been freshly painted. However there were one or two problem areas which needed to be addressed - the road narrowing sign to the Granard side of the village was rather on the grubby side and the pebble dashed gable to the out building adjacent to the Inny Side Lodge, also on this side of the village, could have been fresher. The large house at the top of Main Street in its prominent position also needed some attention. The gutters were quite weedy and the boundary wall was also quite grubby. Weeds were also evident to the gutters of the market House. While the adjudicator appreciates the large volume of traffic travelling through the village grubby walls and signs create a bad impression and therefore extra vigilance is necessary. Also in terms of weed control the kerbs to the Mullingar side of the village were quite weedy. However, the new ash trees are coming along nicely and should be a wonderful asset to future generations.