

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KINNEGAD**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	20	20
Landscaping	40	23	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	8	8
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	18
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	151	151

Kinnegad, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Well , a new committee and a new beginning for Kinnegad. Welcome to the competition as a new committee. The town is very important to both visitor and passer-by and the adjudicators are sure there are a tremendous number of people serviced through the restaurants in the village each day. It is therefore important to make it an attractive village, so that when the by pass does arrive, that visitors /motorists will detour and want to stop in the village. Now is the time to make the lasting impression. There are a number of developments being carried out in the village and these show the sign of investment, which is good. A 3/5 year development plan is sought - this however should be short , concise, perhaps in pointed form, setting out both short term and long term objectives. It should be set out by the local community and try and define the vision of how they would like to see the village in 5 years time taking into account resources and limitations.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There are a number of well presented premises and buildings in the main street of Kinnegad. The signage and front of some of the buildings could be more traditional in approach. Those that looked well included; Tommy Scanlon, The Cottage, Harrys, Grainnes Fashions (with some nice hanging baskets) Erris house B&B, Brackens (nice window boxes) and the Statoil on the Galway road (which had some nice landscaping). There are several derelict/disused buildings which need attention. The Education/training Centre is a fine building. Did this have some flowers in previous years ? The Garda Station requires a facelift and the area beside the school is very overgrown - one could hardly see the school for the long grass in front of it. The shrub planting in the school was nice and the school itself tidy. The Midland Health Centre needed to have its gates and railing repainted and some planting would uplift the building. The planting in front of the Heritage Centre looked well though it was probably time consuming to maintain. The pump is also well kept. The plastic tables and chairs in front of the Heritage Centre should be gradually replaced with wooden chairs and tables. Although more expensive they do look so much better.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping has really been left to the individual owners of premise to make an impact. The new housing will hopefully have some landscaped areas when complete. A greater number of trees would make a good impact on the town especially in the centre and a programme of tree planting should be considered.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The application form said 'nil' under this category and this must be disputed. The river flowing to one side of the village provides both a freshwater and marsh habitat. Could an area adjoining this provide picnic facilities for passing motorists? Meadows and hedges are also found on the outskirts of the village. In conjunction with the school, a resource assessment should be drawn up and plans to enhance and manage the different habitats should be considered. Information on this survey could be displayed in the heritage centre. Expertise should also be sought from those knowledgeable in the area such as Conservation Volunteers.

LITTER CONTROL

Although it was recognised that the large amount of traffic contributes to the litter problem, a litter awareness campaign could help to foster an awareness. Litter was evident in some quantity beside the river at the bridge and in the carpark of the Heritage centre which is an important place and should be totally litter free at all times. It was also evident beside the GAA park. Some bins also needed attention. The litter bin outside the bank was full and needed repairing.

TIDINESS

It is difficult to judge tidiness when there are/have been roadworks in operation. There was both building material that needed removing and traffic cones on the Galway road. Some of the shops on the main street seemed cluttered with advertising on their shop window areas and this should be noted. The approach roads were generally not tidy either.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The adjudicators look forward to the completion of the new estates. At Riverside there is a good opportunity for new landscaping maybe in the form of trees or a park area for the children. Trees were required in some of the older estates as well. In Orchard Close the houses were neat and tidy, however the sign needs renewing. There is also a new stone cottage on the Sligo road which looked well. The estate opposite St. Etchens was generally well presented and the residences on the Rathwire road were well landscaped.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads were not presented well this year. The Sligo road is overgrown, though the murals on the GAA ground wall looked interesting. The presentation of the Dublin road was poor with broken signs and broken fencing. The Galway road was reasonable - signs should be kept clean on a regular basis.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This, the adjudicators realise is a period of transition. The committee have a task ahead of them which is achievable if planned carefully. Please, please ensure that the Heritage Centre area is well maintained. An embarrassing scene was witnessed - a German Coach tour party were visiting the Heritage Centre on the day of adjudication - they alighted into the carpark from the bus - the carpark was in a poor state with weeds and litter. Not a good impression of Kinnegad or Ireland.