

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **HACKETSTOWN**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	35
The Built Environment	40	23	24
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	15	15
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	178	181

Hacketstown, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

At adjudication time a plan of your proposed work was not included. There are a number of areas where considerable improvements could be achieved. The derelict buildings continue to present problems and a really serious approach should be taken with these. The surrounding countryside is so attractive that the village should be able to borrow this background. This could be achieved by a simple clean and well presented streetscape and with all buildings and walls in excellent condition. The river is a lovely asset yet it is inaccessible. The cemetery is very stark and there is not a single tree included within its walls.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The nature of the villages seems to give prominence to many buildings. The pink building opposite the monument could be tidied up a little. The derelict building beside the church and on the nearby corner in particular are very undesirable. As regards buildings Hacketstown is a town of contrasts with some very well presented buildings such as Supervalu and some other shops on the main street. There is an unfortunate treatment of an old church building in which the windows and front end have been disfigured by concrete blocks. The Health Centre requires urgent attention to painting and presentation.

LANDSCAPING

Gardens with and around the village contribute well to the overall landscaping. There are attractive gardens particularly on the Clonmore Road. The area surrounding the monument is well planted. If the ESB pole could be removed from this green it would be helpful. The Contribution by the ESSO petrol station is very positive in developing the shrubbery above the forecourt. The front yellow brick while clean and bright is a little out of place and the style of the preserved natural stone wall above the car wash would be much better. The greens at Marian tce and hillside offer ample opportunity for tree planting. Trees of the area rather than highly ornamental trees would be a great idea.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

In previous reports the development of the river has been mentioned. This is a opportunity which should now be pursued more vigorously. A project in conjunction with the schools would be ideal.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control could be improved. This is a problem throughout Ireland and by no means confined to Hacketstown. Most items of

litter tend to be materials dropped by children. A great concentration of effort is needed.

TIDINESS

Derelict buildings and their surrounds, some weedy patches and the nature of the activities of the Perry Oil Company and the steelworks seems to work against the aim of tidiness. A comprehensive plan street by street is needed to overcome these problems.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The efforts by individual home owners are very important in this village. The housing estates as mentioned above require their greens to be planted with trees. One square green above Hillview Drive is totally devoid of any planting other than grass

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The main streets/roads are in reasonably good condition. However some weedy areas and broken surfaces still need improvement

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is a great opportunity to make great strides of progress in Hacketstown. Co-operation between groups and pressure and encouragement will be needed to achieve the ultimate goals. The river Derreen and the beautiful surrounding countryside are there to enhance any improvements.