

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ROYAL OAK**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	--
The Built Environment	40	24	--
Landscaping	40	28	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	--
Litter Control	40	16	--
Tidiness	20	14	--
Residential Areas	30	20	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	175	--

Royal Oak, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Royal Oak is a tiny village left open and exposed by the side of the road by the development of the main road on which very heavy traffic passes. Traffic from the main road also divides the village and makes it a very dangerous place to cross at any point with the speed of traffic. A plan is needed to outline the proposed work in the next three to five years so that progress can be focused.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The village comprises three main business premises. The two public houses are well presented and the so is the shop. The car parking areas around the pubs leaves much to be desired and a tidy up and definition of boundaries as well as good surfacing is needed. The 1798 monument is nicely placed and well maintained. Stone walls are a feature of the village and every effort should be made to make the most of these. The little old petrol station could be renovated to become a feature of its own.

LANDSCAPING

The two entrance sides from the main road are very well treated with a nice collection of shrubs on a difficult site and very well cared for grass mounds. The stone name signs are excellent. The linear park created from the old road space is a wonderful idea. Much work has gone into this worthwhile project and it is a credit to all concerned. The Wells graveyard is a truly wonderful sight and the effort, time and dedication invested by people in this is phenomenal. Well done - this is a wonderful project.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There are always opportunities in nearby areas to develop interests in wildlife amenities. Woods, rivers wetland all have their particular interests. Plan the best approach with this aspect and find local knowledge.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is good although some litter was noted. Besides the difficulty of local litter there is always the problem of passing traffic discarding litter so extra vigilance is needed.

TIDINESS

Due to the nature of the carparks of the pubs and the way the old roads and new roads interest a certain degree of disorder is present. By carefully paying attention to the definition of areas and maybe planting screen trees to separate main road from the carparks a more unified tidy village would result

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Each residence has a contribution to make in this regard. Because there are so few residences every effort made is appreciated and must be encouraged and helped.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

As stated above the difficulties of new and old roads presents its problems. Surfacing and definition are important. Maybe road markings footpaths and approaches to slow the traffic would help. Much heavy traffic seems to enter the village at speeds a little too high for comfort and safety.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is a good effort in the village against the difficulties. The imaginative developments making the park/garden on the old road and the Wells graveyard are commendable projects.