

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **FIDDOWN**  
County : **KILKENNY**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	30
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>183</b>

## **Fiddown, County Kilkenny**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

A detailed plan would now be most helpful in setting precise goals and the means to achieve them . The fact that you can gain such support as mentioned in your application form from public bodies means there is great scope for further achievement. This village was never made for the amount of traffic it now takes. The lack of footpaths in many places, speed of cars and road markings would suggest that pedestrians had no right to be on the road at all. This problem is accentuated by the bends on the road through the village. This must be addressed in the interest of safety.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The stone walls are a great feature of the area. The restoration of stone walls and the building of new stone walls such as at the house on the road behind Meades pub is very positive. The high stone wall around the Oil company alleviates some of the impact of the industrial building. The old tourist and craft centre building is attractive. The old church and cemetery offer a great opportunity for restoration. In its present form with a rusty gate it is quite unattractive. The railway station house and the old platforms could make a more interesting feature in the village. The Enterprise centre and Meades pub as well as some other businesses looked well. Attention to paintwork, fencing and signs are an ongoing requirement.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Considerable planting has been done in a number of spots where opportunities appear and this is commendable. The line of trees – ash along the roadside at the approach to the level crossing are excellent and trees like this can play a great part in screening and creating a pleasant environment. Tree planting is also noted in the enterprise centre – this is a site that could accommodate very many more trees. The large red pots seem a little bit out of context in many places. Containers, unless they have excellent displays, draw more attention to the pot than the planting. Individual gardens play a major role in the overall landscape of a village and great credit is due to those who take exceptional care of their gardens.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

There are so many interesting habitats in the vicinity that provide great opportunity for wildlife and conservation projects. As stated last year the Tidy Towns manual will be helpful. Local knowledge and co-operation with the local schools could provide a really worthwhile set of initiatives.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There is reasonably good litter control. The passing traffic may be a problem in this regard. Constant vigilance is needed.

## **TIDINESS**

There is an amount of grassy weeds at road edges and at the front of some of the shrubberies. The commercial enterprises can create a certain amount of untidiness by nature of their business. This can only be mollified by extra care of the entire village.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There is a very good sense of care and attention to individual homes and their surrounds. This makes Fiddown a very presentable village.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The road surface on the main road is excellent. Please note comments above regarding lack of foot pavements. The surface outside Meades pub is rough and creates water pools. The roads off the main road are not to the same high standard. Weed control by the edges of the roads need attention

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The stonework and the bridge give a certain character to Fiddown. There are many projects to be undertaken that will improve Fiddown further. Attention to detail is very important and this is an area that should be focused upon.