

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GOWRAN**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	32	29
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	34	35
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	20	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	230	225

Gowran, County Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The development in Gowran is very impressive with great use of stone walls, restoration of the St. Marys Church and the development of open spaces. The plan and costings show that tremendous serious effort is in place in Gowran. The funding of the various projects is interesting and much credit is due for sourcing the funding for the projects. The millennium garden is a wonderful project and will be a great success when completed.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

St. Mary's church and surrounding walls are the core of the town and the restoration is a wonderful project. There are so many places where stone is well used throughout the town. The entrance to St. Mary's Court, the wall above the community hall and school and places such as at the fair green, fronting the tress. The roundabout below the church with the roses and stone surround suggest that the woodcarving, display triangle at the other end of the town would be better surrounded by a low stone kerbing rather than the present boundary. The school, community hall and church were looking extremely well helped no doubt by the occasion of Mass being celebrated in the cemetery today. The many fine stone buildings in the town give a great character to the place. Shops and business premises are well presented. The buildings around the Fair green are well maintained. The sheds beside the Hardings might benefit from a little attention.

LANDSCAPING

The individual gardens play a very important part in the overall landscape of Gowran and great credit is due to individuals who care so well for their own gardens and who may have no connection at all with organised committees. The Fair green and the site of the millennium garden has wonderful mature lime trees whose scent was at its peak today. These fine trees were planted by a previous generation who could never have hoped to see them in their full maturity today. Are similar trees being planted now for the next two generations? The old yew trees around the St. Marys church are a great asset. These need urgent attention in the form of clearing weed and ivy and elder from them and pruning or tying to restore their proper shape. The high garden is a lovely project and a great way of presenting history and facts about Gowran. The many containers add a nice brightness to the town. The shrubbery at the school is marvellous and surely a delight for school pupils, parents and teachers alike. The church grounds so well presented for the Mass were a delight.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is unfortunate that plans have not worked out well in this regard.

Perseverance and determination – which appear to be plentiful in Gowran will result in achievement.

LITTER CONTROL

The litter control is good. Some litter was noted around St. Mary's church and on the roadsides. This requires constant vigilance.

TIDINESS

There is a very tidy appearance to Gowran which includes approaches and throughout the centre. The places where some work is needed, such as buildings repaired, can easily be listed and these no doubt will be the focus of attention in the future.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The many individual houses appeared well tended, and both gardens and buildings were presented well. There are many interesting styles of houses within the town giving a unique character. At Parkmore Tce there is a nice entrance leading to Green View. There are large green spaces there demanding trees to be planted – perhaps less of the ornamental small trees and more of the trees of the fair green - lime. At St. Mary's court there is a very fine standard. Trees are planted on one side of the approach, how about the other side?

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The streets surface are in good condition. The traffic travels too fast through the centre and some means of calming would be helpful. There is no safe place to cross the road and since there are so many bends and a hill, traffic appears suddenly and is dangerous.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Gowran is a delight to visit and the progressive spirit of development and presentation is a tonic.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/08/99)

Gowran continues to gain additional marks at the top end of the competition. There was, unfortunately, considerable litter at Green View, and also, surprisingly, in the High Garden at St Mary's. This latter was of course temporary; the wonderful garden will burgeon. It was considered judicious not to enter the High Garden for the Landscape Award this year, though it was photographed: this is because the corner next to the street at the upper end did not appear to be completed, not all the boxwood was well established, and there was the aforementioned temporary litter; much better to enter it when these obviously detrimental factors have been attended to. The splendid stone walls were also photographed, and will be entered for the Heritage Award. Congratulations to the

Development Association on the superb achievement.