

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GRAIGUENAMANAGH**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	26
The Built Environment	40	23	21
Landscaping	40	21	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	179	171

Graiguenamanagh, County Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The planned work and map submitted with the application was most useful. While the points listed as priorities are excellent, a little more detail as to how these will be achieved would help focus your efforts in the positive direction. The river frontage gives Graiguenamanagh a lovely advantage and provides an ideal opportunity for developments. The abbey is a fantastic asset also and the complex of streets and back ways gives a unique character to the town.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The restored Duiske Abbey is the most prominent part of the built environment. This is a wonderful feature to have at the centre of the town and this can be viewed from so many areas in the town. The railings and pavements associated with the Abbey add greatly to the appreciation of the restoration. The stone walls at the waterside – waterside guesthouse has a lovely stone structure. The Duiske glass building and building opposite this are very attractive stone buildings. The corrugated iron and blocked up house adjacent to this is unattractive and hopefully in time some work will be done here to remedy the situation. The grotto which is very attractively stone built but unfortunately enclosed by concrete brick walls. Could this wall be removed entirely? The library/health centre/ toilet/ Abbey centre are nicely constructed and cleverly tucked into their site. The many well presented business premises give a vibrant look to the town - the Anchor bar, Healys pharmacy the Globe and O'Briens were noted as examples. Some business premises need attention and an inventory of the condition of premises would be useful for planning. The removal of overhead cables would be very helpful. Traffic too is difficult and a system of one way streets with less on-street parking would benefit everyone.

LANDSCAPING

A great line of lime trees behind the wall opposite the Garda station shows just how important trees are within a town. Any space available throughout the town should be utilised for tree planting. The Calvary graveyard is very stark – yet well maintained. Tree planting at the periphery of this would be helpful for future generation. The planting at the Abbey centre is clever. The treatment of the stream running behind the houses and the view from the bridge behind the Globe pub is disappointing. This whole area offers scope for imaginative treatment.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river barrow must present great opportunities in this regard. As stated last year, consultation with people who are aware of the

particular potential should be consulted.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter continues to be a problem all over Ireland. Waterways present particular problems as often litter floating down stream becomes trapped. This is noticeable at the stream behind the street and steps will need to be taken to overcome this. The litter bin on the street just past the Abbey centre was full at midday on the day of adjudication. The pebble-dashed litter bins are coated with pebbles which are not consistent with the stone of the area and look a little out of place when positioned beside the stone of the Abbey. The advertising on litter bins is unattractive and undesirable. Similarly so are plaques on planters.

TIDINESS

The area around the Abbey is very tidy and well cared for. The waterfront area, quays and back areas are less tidy and could take some attention now. The quayside area below the Anchor bar is particularly in need of attention. Some derelict areas are detracting from the overall good quality of the town. While it is understood that work is ongoing in the old courthouse the area in front of this building is untidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Individual houses along the approach roads are well tended. Their gardens and house presentation having a high standard. The little estates of Woodland, Brandon park, and Brandonvale are well cared for and have a nicely landscaped entrance. Many have attractive container plantings. The old stone building on the roadside opposite these estates no doubt has possibilities. The estate behind the Statoil petrol station is very cluttered and the entrances to it are very poor. A renewal programme is needed for this estate. It is difficult to reconcile the elaborate restoration of the Abbey with the cluttered aspect of this housing.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The roadways and paths are well tended and there are good surfaces. As mentioned above the back areas along the stream could be improved greatly and a superb feature could be made.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Graiguenamanagh has great assets, the river, the Abbey, and a great wealth of interesting buildings. The Abbey is the outstanding feature and it would be nice to raise standards all through the town appropriate to the status of the Abbey