

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **OWNING**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	24	23
Landscaping	40	26	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	28	26
Tidiness	20	15	13
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	185	178

Owning, County Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Co-operation and seeking assistance from public bodies is part and parcel of the activities of a tidy towns committee. In the report last year this point was made very clearly. A well set out three to five year plan is a very important way of identifying goals and the means to achieve them. Please draw up a plan as soon as possible. Even if the progress does not follow the plan exactly the changes can be built in to the plan at reviews. The stone walls and very well cared for hedges contribute greatly to the appearance of this village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The stone walls in the village are cleared and presented to perfection. Even the halting rings are retained in the walls at the church and cemetery. The gates of the church and cemetery are particularly attractive and well painted. The stone surrounded lime tree adds character to the village. The school, Sue Ryder home and Anthony's are well presented. The Marian hall is neatly kept. The houses show a great sense of care and attention.

LANDSCAPING

Individual gardens contribute greatly to the overall landscape of the village. This is especially true in small villages and every encouragement and credit should be given for this. The green area opposite the school, with ruined buildings, seeking planning permission is well cared for. The simplicity of well mown and cared for grass is amazing. The open green at the junction is very well planted and cared for. The inner stonework is more attractive than the outer concrete kerbing and maybe this is an item that could be included in a long term plan. The birch trees and other planting along the carpark of the Marian hall are attractive. The very old yew trees in the cemetery give a love atmosphere to that site. The planting at the entrance to the Sue Ryder home is also good. Containers are flowering well despite the dull summer to date.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is important to identify items that could be developed under this category. Often local knowledge will be very helpful. Schools can be involved. The Tidy Towns manual will greatly assist too. There are always sites nearby that have potential and create extra interest

LITTER CONTROL

The control of litter is good. Plastic bags are always a problem. This was an extremely quiet time and only two people were noted

walking. With schools and normal weekday activity litter will be more difficult to control.

TIDINESS

There is a very tidy appearance to the village. Attention to detail is good. Attention to details like the grass care on the green, hedges and wall presentations are all important.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residences are in good condition and there appears to be a very good pride in the care of homes, gardens and surrounds. Any weak spots can be identified and focused upon in a plan.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Care is needed to assist the growth of thorn hedges by removing weeds such as nettles and briars. Replacing any gaps is also important. Over scouring of the base of walls of the small plants that grow on walls can occur with over enthusiasm leading to an unnatural look. The road surfaces are reasonably well kept

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This is a village where meticulous care is taken with the available assets. There is scope for new developments - renewal planting, more stone features, wildlife projects and tree planting. What will happen when the lime tree passes its life span. Wouldn't it be a good idea to plant another one now for the next two generations. Maybe the centre of the green or some other suitable place could be found for planting.