

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **URLINGFORD**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	32	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	28	29
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	7	8
TOTAL MARK	300	219	218

Urlingford, County Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The achievements made are admirable in the face of the continual pounding of traffic, presenting hazards even to cross the road, not to mention to get from Mill street to New line road by car. The more support you can get for the developments the better and your liaison with FAS and public authorities will be useful.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The main street contains a very wide array of buildings and standards of their upkeep. The premises that have upgraded are very attractive and will give encouragement to others to follow. The Library is a beautiful building and well treated at the front. The Garda barracks sign is not very elegant especially with a ragwort weed covering it. The Cemetery out the Mill street with its fine stone walls and the walls nearby are a lovely asset. The Church and school were in very good order. The fire station surrounds could do with attention. The work planned for the old school will be beneficial

LANDSCAPING

The many improvements are noted. The tree planting at the Durrow end and the library landscape are of particular note. Many houses have very fine gardens and these contribute greatly to the overall landscape of the town. The thuja planting is a very courageous endeavour. The plantings along the main street looks well and will improve with growth. The school grounds and the maintenance of the cemetery are admirable. There are many fine trees in the area – many limes in particular. The continual planting of these is important in spaces that arise. The area to the river opposite the cemetery is a very pleasant development.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Goul garden, while attractive in itself is not sufficient to avail of the wildlife asset of the area. Perhaps a river walk could be developed in a way that would enable people to enjoy the wildlife of the locality.

LITTER CONTROL

There is a reasonable level of control in place. Litter was evident in many places on the main street and especially at a gateway close to the fire station.

TIDINESS

There is a tidy appearance to the town; this is helped greatly by the entrances which are well organised. Tidiness is less evident at

the mill street area. at Emerald gardens and at a number of points where renewal and refurbishment of houses are obviously needed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residential estates are well cared for. Assumption place has a very attractive entrance with the green and trimmed leylands. The St Joseph's tce area is well cared for.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The main street is well maintained. The footpaths on the main street are badly broken in many places and attention to a renovation programme would be helpful; the roadside parking areas are useful but with the speed of traffic, it is difficult for pedestrians to cross. Also for cars crossing from Mill street to New Line road, the parked cars obscure the vision of coming traffic. No parking in a zone approaching this and other junctions would help. Attention to side roads and verges would be useful as was mentioned last year. The area by the roadside beyond the school is attractive.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is a very fresh appearance about the entry and exit to the town. There are many fine premises throughout but a number needing attention and litter continues to present challenges.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (15/08/99)

In spite of the difficulties pointed out in your notes accompanying the entry form, Urlingford has done very well. Any increase in marks at this high level of the competition is significant – remember that overall there are more than seven hundred entries. It is not the case that Urlingford lacks natural amenities – the countryside enclosing the village is most attractive, so is the stream and the area beside the castle and ancient church. It is in fact remarkable that on the busiest route in the country the roadside planting does so well – you may be sure that this is commented on by passers-by, not only by the adjudicator. This year some categories have come out better than others. Unfortunately on second adjudication day quite an amount of litter was seen inside streets, and those who own property on either side of the New Line should consider mending the wall on one side and the fence on the other in the interests of good citizenship. Congratulations on maintaining a very high standard.