

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **WINDGAP**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	25
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	24
Litter Control	40	30	32
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	22
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	200	195

Windgap, County Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your large committee is to be congratulated on their progressive approach to developments and the manner in which they can gain co-operation from so many people to achieve results. The provisional 3-5 year plan is very focused and realistic . As the years proceed revisions can be made as necessary depending on progress. The developments that have taken place are commendable.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

On the main road, - Guinans bar, Avonmore creamery and the green building between these are doing their best to give a good presentation. The creamery building and surrounds are difficult to keep well because of their function but they are striving well. The building on the opposite side of the road is continuing to look sad and neglected. This offers potential. The church is a drab building and possibly with a different colour scheme the next time it could be dramatically improved. The cemetery is a fascinating feature. Such an enormous cemetery for the size of the town. The elaborate entrance and series of steps are impressive. The gates need attention to painting. The schools and surrounds are well presented. The little white cottage is an attractive feature and has been done with imagination.

LANDSCAPING

The wildlife pond and surrounds are a wonderful landscape feature and marvellous asset to the village. This is proceeding well with many of the trees and other plants thriving. More variety of waterside plants could be considered now and more seating – perhaps a shelter or a gazebo structure would be suitable. The large yew trees in the cemetery as well as other trees are an important asset in the town. Often trees of this size are taken for granted but they were planted one day by people who could never have hoped to see them to maturity. It is important that this generation also plants such trees for the next two generations to enjoy. The planting at the junction at the mural is well done . The water pump and collection of container plants throughout the town are pleasant – unfortunately due to the dull weather these are slow to come to their best. There is a great opportunity for tree planting to separate the school from the playing pitch. This could be an informal band of broadleaf and coniferous trees planted as a screen or band. The hedges are well cared for and nicely show the stone at their base. While this is a good idea, care is always needed to avoid a clinical look by the elimination of wild vegetation which in itself is attractive.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The wildlife pond is a very important feature here. More developments in regard to identification of visiting birds, allowing some areas for natural vegetation and sign boards are all helpful. Some information on the origin and development of the stone could also be useful.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter is generally well looked after. The deposit of rubbish inside the main gate of the cemetery is distasteful. The wildlife pond are also had its share of litter. With so many passers by and visitors it is understandably hard to keep the place completely litter free but constant diligence and continuing to make people aware of the need to keep the area litter free is important.

TIDINESS

There is a tidy appearance to the village. The murals are a wonderful idea as they take away from an otherwise unsightly situation. They are also attractive in themselves.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Every home plays an important part in the overall vision of the village. A co-ordinated approach to containers may be worth considering.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The rich roadside wild floral vegetation on the approach road to the church leading to a nicely mown grass entrance with stone walls partially covered with ivy, is lovely. The roadside gutter by the church area is unusual. The proposed developments along the roadside here are interesting. The road surfaces at the church and cemetery area are very rough and need resurfacing

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The wildlife pond is the predominating feature of the village and worthy of great praise. The stone walls and hedges and the attention to individual homes is remarkable too.