

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **OLDCASTLE**
County : **MEATH**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	22
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	20	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	16	17
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	17	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	18
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	141	140

Oldcastle, County Meath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Oldcastle is a compact town with all roads leading from the Square. The town has many fine features and with a stepped up effort could do much better. Most if not all the comments in last year's report still apply. A major drive to generate greater involvement is needed if the town is to achieve its full potential. You must try and encourage more support from all sectors including the relevant state agencies. The preparation of a development plan would be a major step forward.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The square is the focal point of the town and has many well presented buildings, some of which include the Bistro, the Naper Arms and National Irish Bank. There are however many buildings with unsuitable signs and others require painting, e.g. Co-Op and Oldcastle Motors. The Catholic Church is an impressive stone building and the Church of Ireland is a feature in the square, however, vegetation should be removed from the roof of the Church of Ireland. The old stone school on the Kells road is another noteworthy building. There are several industrial buildings especially on the Virginia Road that have unsightly frontages and boundary fencing, e.g. RESPA.

LANDSCAPING

There are several shrubberies and planted containers around the Square which add colour and interest as do well planted window boxes. Creepers are an attractive feature on several buildings.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Well planted gardens, mature trees, berried shrubs, etc. are all important habitats. Your development plan should identify possible wildlife habitats and the type of planting that can be done to improve the wildlife environment. School children can also play a part in identifying the range of habitats in and around the town.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is poor with excessive amounts of litter present throughout the town especially in the Square and the Virginia road.

TIDINESS

A number of improvements have taken place in recent years in Oldcastle, e.g. renovation of buildings, new footpaths, etc. but much of this effect has been negated by litter. More regular sweeping of street gutters would also help.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are many well presented houses and gardens throughout Oldcastle. The houses on the Mullingar road stand out.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

More regular cutting of grass verges especially on the Virginia, Kells and Mountrugent roads is required. The new footpaths make a big improvement to the town centre, but road surfaces in several areas are poor and in need of attention especially the Virginia road.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

More support must be generated if worthwhile progress is to be made. The preparation of a development plan would greatly help.