

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KINNITTY**
County : **OFFALY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	31	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	16	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	212	206

Kinnitty, County Offaly

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The document for the three to five year plan is perhaps too large and not focussed sufficiently for addressing each specific year. It takes quite a long time to read and to establish what is being carried out in a specific year of adjudication. Perhaps a fly sheet with an accompanying map could be used for each year so as to focus on particular works involved in the year of adjudication. The entry form was informative and comments very helpful in understanding local issues.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The overall presentation of the village is superb and very compact. The Community Hall is really an excellent fit of new build with an existing character of the village. The parking area beside the Church of Ireland is very well treated and again sympathetic to a village atmosphere. There is good landscaping and clean surfaces. The Garda Station is well presented with flower boxes, but the derelict buildings detract from the overall setting, though it must be pointed out that the mill stones against one of the buildings makes for an interesting interpretation.

LANDSCAPING

There is a very high quality of landscaping in the village as noted in this years mark. All the green spaces are very pleasant and have a high level of maintenance as are the roadside areas. The wild flower meadow to the rear of the Church of Ireland around the monument provided a very different character to what is usually expected in such spaces. This is really a grass mix other than a flower mix, but in some ways ties in better with the adjoining countryside. One would raise the concern that perhaps some of the new trees that have been planted alongside the boundary wall may screen views of the pyramid as it can be seen from many parts of the village. On a last note the triangular green should be consolidated as it seems to have been fragmented by the small minor roads and perhaps omitting one of them could reinforce its size and use.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The meadow is an excellent example of experimenting with this aspect of the Competition. It is important to explain the approach to encouragement of habitats, weed killing and a maintenance programme throughout the year. These are important issues within this category and should be explained in the Development Plan.

LITTER CONTROL

There are a few litter sources in this village; however the standard is very high and there were only minor pieces noted.

TIDINESS

The village is very tidy, not only in the centre, but out to the limits of the village. The coping to stone wall outside the National School is very poor, and may become an untidy element in future years.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

This category is very small for a village of this size. However it is evident that all private residences have a very high pride in being part of the overall character of the village.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Clonaslee entry is very well cared for as are all entry roads into the village which have a high standard of presentation. It must be noted that the extensive weed spraying is quite unsightly if the edges are not cleaned up and the dead material removed. It also provides an untidy image to kerbs.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village is an important gateway to the Slieve Blooms and as such its presentation is ever more important for visitors to the area. As such the village has very much demonstrated an ability to not only solve local issues but also address concerns of national and regional importance.