

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GRANGECON**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	24
The Built Environment	40	26	21
Landscaping	40	26	18
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	10
Litter Control	40	20	19
Tidiness	20	12	10
Residential Areas	30	15	14
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	22
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	172	143

Grange Con, County Wicklow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed detailed entry form together with your map of the village, highlighting progress and copy of your 3 year plan. This is only your second year of entry in the competition and it is very evident that you are approaching this competition in a very professional manner. Your 3 year plan sets out clear objectives which are achievable. It is obvious that you have very good support from all sectors of the community. Try to maintain the support and don't be afraid to experiment in carrying new projects for the future.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The village of Grange Con has a number of unique features in its built environment and it is encouraging to see that you are combining old and new, in a way which creates a very good impression. The old School House has been completed and it is good to see the Bell Tower. The car park area to the back of the old school behind the Church, however, is an area that needs to be improved for next year. Try to paint the boundary wall of the school. The schoolgrounds are very well presented with nice mural noted in the playground, well done. Try also to paint the fencing at the Boxing Club and replace the sign. Kavanaghs was well presented. J. Moores was freshly painted. It is nice to see features such as the Horses Head on the wall; it is good also to see the use of Irish at J. Moores, "Failte Isteach", well done. Try to hold onto the old telephone kiosk if you can. The Church was well presented but perhaps paint the bell and the side wall. The adjudicator would especially like to commend the beautifully renovated building with clock incorporated into the building, well done. Overall very good efforts are noted throughout the village.

LANDSCAPING

The Grotto area was very well maintained. The planted shrubs were noticed at the entrance to Mallinswood and the flower beds were also very good. Good luck with your plan to introduce tree planting around the stream area.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Extensive planting was noted at Goose Island and up along the stream. However the adjudicator noted perhaps more important wildlife habitat very close to the village which was the Old Railway. This was visible from the bridge and is another important area which you might try to nurture. Try

to get schools involved in identifying what species of flora and fauna exist in this area as well as evaluating what can be done to develop natural amenities in other parts of the surrounding village.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control throughout the village of Grange Con is to be commended. It is obvious that the community is very much aware of the importance of good litter control management. The adjudicator noted little, if any, problems with litter apart from one area where some sprinklings of litter were noted in the residential estates. Try to encourage the residents to tackle this. One of the approach roads i.e., the approach road towards Goose Island, also showed some evidence of litter.

TIDINESS

Generally the village of Grange Con has a very neat, tidy appearance again this year which you should be proud of. Try to watch the weeds down by the pump area and in the longer term, try to remove the overhead wires.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Overall very good individual and combined residential efforts were noted. The estate was very well maintained. However, as mentioned sprinklings of litter were noted. There are some excellent individual premises throughout the village and the efforts of the owners are to be commended for ensuring that their premises are freshly painted and for making good use of flowers to brighten up and further enhance the overall appearance.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The main street has been resurfaced, well done. There was a very neat, tidy appearance here. On the approach road from Baltinglass, try to clean the Grange Con sign. It is good to see the introduction of the new granite name plates at the perimeter of the village, well done. Try to replace the junction sign at the bottom of the boundary wall at the school. Further in tree planting had taken place, which enhanced the overall image. Flower planting has also taken place, the grass is neatly cut and the flower tubs are also very well presented. On the approach road from Dunlavin, a new stone wall is noted on the left hand side, grass verges had been very neatly maintained as had the hedges on the right hand side, with nice maturing trees which give a very good impression. On the third approach road i.e., the middle road, new nameplate also noted here. Again a very neat, tidy appearance noted here; small sprinklings of litter however, were noted on this approach. The tree planting is coming on well. Try to paint the yield

sign pole. Overall a very good impression as one approaches the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You are continuing to make progress in this competition and you are to be commended for this. The adjudicator enjoyed his visit to Grange Con and looks forward to further improvements to be made in years to come. There is no reason why you cannot do very well in this competition, but it does take time.