

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ROUNDWOOD**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	34
The Built Environment	40	26	24
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	195	186

Roundwood, County Wicklow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed entry form together with map of village which was helpful during course of adjudication and your draft of the 3 year development plan.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Good effort was noted in the presentation of buildings throughout Roundwood this year, with a number of improvements and a number of new developments since last year. Again the Roundwood Inn and the Coach House deserve particular mention for the presentation of their premises being litter free and freshly painted, with good use of flowers. It was good to see also that the car park of the Tavern had been resurfaced. Harvest Loom is a particular eye sore and efforts should be made to try and improve this for next year. Try also to paint Prices garage. The entrance to the caravan park was very good and well maintained. Outside An Tochar House was also neat and tidy and well presented. Try also to paint the Avonmore Credit Union sign. At the Roundwood Parish Hall, try to replace the sign and consider this area for an improvement scheme which might include cobble locking and proper landscaping. Also replace the Glendalough / Wicklow sign near here. Kavanaghs is well presented. The school grounds were very well presented as was the Church Grounds. The Eastern Health Board was also well maintained here. The adjudicator noted a number of retail developments which helped to enhance the overall area. Overall a good presentation of premises.

LANDSCAPING

At the triangular site on the Sally Gap Road, grass had been cut, but try to remove dead grass. At the turn off for Newtownmountkennedy, the adjudicator feels that the triangular area is somewhat cluttered with too much street furniture which could be simplified for coming years. Try also to continue to replace the flower containers on the approach road from Laragh. The little picnic area on the approach road from Ashford was noted again this year. In general, there is room for improvement in the presentation of the triangular areas.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The adjudicator noted that you have completed an inventory of local wildlife habitats and would welcome your proposals on how you propose to enhance these in years to come. You still have some additional works in order to enhance these areas such as the proposal for the year 2000, which

includes the Nature Trail and Map, signposting information boards, etc. The school children have a major role to play in encouraging natural development. The expertise of individuals in the area can provide guidance on what practical steps can be taken.

LITTER CONTROL

The adjudicator was particularly impressed with the standard of litter free maintenance in the village of Roundwood this year, in light of the fact that the village is passed through by a large number of passing visitors. In general it was quite good. However, litter control was quite bad in the residential estate, which suggests local people need greater awareness of the importance of litter control. Sprinklings were also noted outside Spar. Other areas such as outside Byrnes were good. Along the main street generally was quite good try to paint the litter bins where needed.

TIDINESS

The Sally Gap sign at the triangle needs to be upgraded. Re - cycling facilities noted in car - park. Try to underground overhead wires on main street in years to come. In general, other areas which need attention are weeds along by kerbing and gravelled areas. Generally though improvements noted.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Graffiti was noted on signs at the entrance to the residential estate. Some litter had also been noted; grass had been cut. There is a need for litter bins here. Try also to paint plastered boundary walls on some premises. Good individual efforts were noted in premises throughout the village again this year. The effort made by Wayside should be an example to other premises as to what can be achieved to create a lovely atmosphere for a very attractive village.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach road from Dublin grass verges had received a rough cut on both sides of the road. Probably the better approach is to consider good partial cutting along road sides which will present a neat, tidy approach, yet at the same time allow for consideration of wildlife further in grass and hedge verges. Along the main street approaching the Roundwood Inn from the north the mature Beech trees on the left were noted. Approaching from Laragh, the adjudicator noted the nice logo on one of the signs which creates a nice image. On the right hand side is very untidy particularly at the entrance of the GAA; left hand side verges had not been cut either. Approaching from

Ashford, the right hand side is only partially cut; at close range however against the vista of the mountains, the greenery on the left hand side near the signs is attractive. However, the overhead wires tend to reduce the visual impact of this village and in time you might try and work on this. Try to consider widening the road on the reservoir side if possible, to allow for extra parking near the shops. On the approach from Lough Dan, long grass was noted along the wall near the pumps. Try to work on this also as it really is very close to the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The adjudicator is appreciative of the fact that a large volume of traffic passes through on a daily basis. This presents both an opportunity from a point of view that there is scope to entice these visitors to stop. But also a threat from a point of view that it can create congestion, litter etc.,. Major strategy of your 3 year plan should be to provide the means whereby visitors can be catered for in more welcoming way i.e., providing appropriate parking facilities to encourage them to stop. Good luck in your efforts.