

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **THOMASTOWN**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	30	31
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	210	208

Thomastown, County Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

From your plan it is now important to assess progress compared with the schedule. Plans always need adjustment as progress never runs without some hitches. Great work has been done in Thomastown over the years and the standard has risen. There is much more to do and a set of priorities that you can form will be your guide.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The waterside, attractive arched bridge, stone walls and old stone buildings form a key part of your built environment. Making the most of these items points you in the right direction. The business premises form a very important part of Thomastown and in recent years great improvements have taken place in this regard. Market street has been substantially upgraded with many fine shop premises. The more shops that improve, the more those that need attention stand out. Those that need attention are obvious. An inventory of these could be made and a policy drawn up as to how to try to progress improvement. The churches are very attractive and form a kernel of the town. The Tower house B&B is attractively presented with the ivy cladding. The stone wall and building close by the Concert hall is very nice. Kilkenny council offices, the fire station and Centra store are very smart. The stone walls on the Mt. Juliet road are really a great feature. The simplicity of good wall, clean well cared grass verges and the great line on sycamore trees is a lovely combination. Mullins castle is a good project. The schools are well cared for.

LANDSCAPING

The simple formula of grass, walls and trees on approach roads as described above is very successful. This is a formula that could be used on many sections of approach roads. Trees such as oak, ash, lime and sycamore need space to develop and this can often be found on roadsides. Trees such as these need to be planted now for the next two generations to enjoy. The area around the church is really well landscaped and makes a lovely presentation. Individual gardens in and around the town can offer a great deal to the overall landscape of the town by their efforts and many are doing just that. The riverside landscape is good but improvements on tidying and some refinement would help further. The entrance to the car park could be improved also. The path down from this car park to the riverside deserves more attention.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river offers great possibilities in this respect. The ducks are very numerous now. Some swans were also seen. General information and further developments are needed in this aspect.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter this year was particularly noticeable at the waterside, the carpark, market square and small amounts in several other places. It is difficult not just in Thomastown but in all parts of Ireland to keep control. Constant vigilance is needed.

TIDINESS

Some derelict buildings and ongoing improvement works are causing some untidiness. Most of this will be resolved as projects are completed. There is a rather untidy appearance at the carpark. The market streets and many of the side streets presented a very tidy appearance.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The new estates are developing well. Gardens will urgently need to be created and care should be taken that developers leave a site in proper condition. Individual home owners throughout the town appear to have a very good spirit of care attention and pride in their homes which is reflected in the overall appearance of the town

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard of roadways is good. The many roads leading to Thomastown creates much traffic. Heavy vehicles are very destructive of road surfaces. The narrow streets suggest more one way systems would be helpful

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is a very optimistic air in Thomastown with advancing building programmes, a sense of value of the important riverside area and a respect for the important old buildings