

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **YOUGHAL**
County : **CORK**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	215	212

Youghal, County Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

An enormous amount of building development continues to proceed in Youghal placing considerable disruption on the town while these developments are in progress and the resulting buildings will create demands on the environment. Traffic and parking are one of the results of increased numbers in the town. The material submitted with the application form was most helpful in seeing the type of projects that are ongoing and proposed in the town. The action plan is an excellent idea outlining the description of the items requiring work and the action planned for public areas, waste areas, plastic and neon signs and derelict sites. As more development takes place back areas may become exposed that hitherto were unseen and now will require attention. Your cooperation with so many bodies is essential in a town of this size, as many of the priority items require input from public authorities or business and commercial interests.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is a wealth of interesting old buildings such as the Shalom House, South Abbey national School, Collegiate Church, clock gate, St Mary's church of Ireland, Tyntes castle, Red house and Almshouse which form an essential fabric of the town. The business premises are well maintained in general along the streets although there are a number especially going towards north abbey that would benefit from attention. Since your committee has listed many derelict sites you might also make a list of those merely needing attention if this has not already been done. The developments at the Clock gate and Barry's Lane leading to the Heritage centre are excellent. The treatment of the heritage centre is welcome and very useful with toilets being an essential part of the building. When future restorations of stone buildings are occurring it may be worth considering using stone paving around the building rather than the modern coloured paving bricks. The substantial developments of Carleton wharf and Harvey's Holiday suites are impressive and change the face of the town considerably. There is a great diversity of building in Youghal. The fine three and four storied terraced houses at South Abbey make an interesting contrast with the housing on the approach road to the Collegiate Abbey. The black signage is most helpful and attractive. (An ice-cream cone advertisement was changed to one of these at the sign for the Fox Hole folk museum).

LANDSCAPING

There are a considerable number of landscape projects in the town and this makes for very good interest. The Millennium

Park is a fine development. The gates were locked at adjudication day (4.30 p.m.) but it was very easy to see through the railings . The design and layout is attractive. Considerable growth will be needed before the true form will be achieved. The associated children's play area is a welcome asset to the town. The 1798 memorial park is attractively planted with colourful bedding and the bandstand and railings are attractive. The overall appearance of this park is monotonous at one level and some height variation would be an interesting inclusion. The paviers used are becoming weedy and the seating on the pier behind needs attention. The roundabout at the Waterford side is very attractively landscaped - both the roundabout and all the associated pieces of islands and lands about this roundabout present a really attractive picture. The ring road is well planted with trees and these need to be well cared for, as onshore salt-laden winds can be troublesome. A policy of replacing any failed trees each year would ensure that this tree scheme would become a very worthwhile roadside tree scheme. The containerised plantings through the streets give an extra seasonal sparkle to the town and are very colourful. Every garden big or small plays an important contribution to the overall landscape of the town and their owners deserve great credit for their efforts.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The seashore offers an obvious advantage in this respect and shore and pier walks are always an attraction. The Quarry Road Park is a lovely feature providing a very calming environment with interesting swamp and background of trees. If there was a way that some pathway could be developed within the wood or in its periphery this could help wildlife appreciation. The steepness of the sides is of course an understandable problem. The arched entrance and picnic tables make this park even more attractive to use.

LITTER CONTROL

Your efforts at litter control management as listed in your submission are admirable and go a long way towards addressing the problem. Nevertheless some litter was noted in several places around the town which is disheartening when so much effort is placed in this direction. Continued perseverance and determination are the only approaches and hopefully a full awareness by people will dawn.

TIDINESS

As work becomes completed the disruptive untidiness of building developments disappear. This is very evident now between the heritage centre and the Harvey's dock where all work is finished and the resultant walk along the harbour side is very pleasant. The streets present a tidy picture. The arrangement of roads at the roundabout and ring roads also

present a tidy situation. Weeds on the paviers in the 1798 park and the state of the benches on the pier were causing untidiness.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of housing estate is reasonably good. There are always opportunities for improvements to landscaping of open areas and entrances by tree planting - so often large greens are not utilised well in this regard. With new housing developments it is very important that there is proper finishing to the sites and builders and developers should be monitored in this regard. There are many residential properties within the town and side streets and these are interesting. The accommodation sector – guesthouses and B&B 's maintain a high standard and this is welcoming.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads are well treated with good wide grass verges and well maintained. As mentioned above the Waterford /Cork roundabout is particularly well treated as is the ring road. Looking through the town an interesting exercise is to look up the side streets and back ways behind houses. Standards vary in this regard and this provides some opportunities. As new back areas are developed for business, apartments or carparking often unsightly backs of buildings area exposed – for example around the back of the Regal Cinema. These types of areas present a new challenge.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is a very progressive impression given on entering Youghal. So much work has been done, so much development is taking place and the consequences of this are a changing environment, which Youghal appears to be adapting to well. The blending of the old and the new with care of the environment and full utilisation of the natural resources is the key to success in Youghal.