

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **LEIXLIP**  
County : **KILDARE**  
Category : **F**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	28
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	19
Litter Control	40	23	22
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>184</b>

## **Leixlip, County Kildare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The adjudicator was impressed with the standards presented in Leixlip this year. It is a large town almost a conurbation of Dublin. Adjacent industry has contributed to the sense of place and the town does not necessarily look to Dublin for everything. Thankyou for your map, brief review of the plan being presently implemented which was very useful. There are a number of areas in which valuable points can be gained in future and these should be prioritised as part on an ongoing plan for the town.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There were variable approaches to the building landscape in Leixlip this year ranging from the very poor to the excellent. The station and its surrounding area were poorly presented. It is suprising as this must be used a great deal by commuter traffic. The hanging baskets on the Amenity Centre were impressive. There was a number of derelict sites/unoccupied on the Main Street, though a number of them seem to be in the process of attracting new tenants. The one that is the most prominent is that on the corner of Captains Hill with pictures of the new Community Centre in the window. The laundrette is understated in its façade and looked well. Other facades that caught attention included Mullins and Henry, Retro Kitchen and Flooring Centre, the AIB with its hanging baskets, and Union Conservatories. Most shop fronts however lacked baskets of planters. The school and the Church up Captains Hill were fine though the grassy areas were untidy near the shop. Riverforest Shopping Centre was fine. Weedy areas were noted in the school at the end of the wood though grass was being cut as judging was taking place. The Fire Station looked well and the Salmon Leap Inn had a fine façade. Scoil Mhuire and the Community School looked well though they lacked litterbins. The carpark was weedy around the Hitchin' Post on the Maynooth road.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The water feature in the centre of the town was pleasant, as were the hanging baskets. Some of the seating areas in the centre of the town are marred by graffiti and this was also evident on some signage. Incidental landscaping does seem to be left up to the individual houses and estates and in many cases this was carried out in an excellent manner.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Squirrel Wood is a nice amenity area and is included in the

section on wildlife. However, it is not well managed or kept. The information board was full of cobwebs and very gritty. There was litter in the wood and there was very little evidence of management. The Committee might write up a plan perhaps in conjunction with transition year students in one of the school and implement it. Other areas round Leixlip are also suitable haunts for wildlife – the hedgerows and associated species, the wooded areas up by the Fire Station and the river.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

For the size of the town litter was under good control. Litter was evident in Ryevale though not in the centre of the estate. The Main Street was good and no litter was noticed. A new bin was noticed at Captains Hill. Some litter was also noticed at Castletown – though overall a very good performance – well done.

## **TIDINESS**

The town was generally tidy on the day of judging. Recycling facilities were noted at River Forest though they seemed to be full as bottles had been left outside them.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There are a great number of residential estates in Leixlip and many of them are presented to a very high standard. Rockingham and Ryevale were well presented. Lawnmowers have been obviously kept busy recently and the huge areas of open space that have been neatly cut back were impressive. The landscaping at Ryevale was good though more permanent planting would have better effect in the long run. River Forest was well maintained. It was good to notice the Clean up night of Thursday which hopefully attracts a great number of people. Glendale and Avondale were also well presented and Cedar Park was reasonable – though weedy gutters were evident in some of the estates. Insufficient number of bins is another problem. Cottages along Mill Lane were very traditional and looked well. Two Houses in particular beside the Fire Station had an exceptional display of flowers and plants – well done. Leixlip Park was superbly presented with newly painted seats and bins as well as lovely planting.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The Maynooth approach was inconsistently cut back though at Intel it is very neat and tidy. Traffic calming is good and a new bicycle lane was being laid out on the day of adjudication. The old Dublin road is dominated by the derelict factory site. The bridge over the river had its upper railings painted though the ones below required attention.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Leixlip is performing well and there was an air of pride in the residential estates. The adjudicator was impressed with what they saw. Litter still needs attention and some important buildings such as the vacant sites on the main street and the railway station need to be focused on. Well done with recent work and good luck with future work.