

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **WELSHISLAND**
County : **OFFALY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	29
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	208	206

Welsh Island, County Offaly

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your continued participation in the competition. Welsh Island is a charming rural village which has retained much of its rural character, well done. We agree with you that the emphasis should be on more permanent planting rather than flower displays and indeed this is what earns the most marks in the competition, and not flower displays.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Post Office premises might soon need to be revarnished. The old forge looks particularly nice. Other buildings such as church and school are pleasing to the eye also.

LANDSCAPING

Flower and shrub displays together with maturing trees at the Daingean entrance to the village are really beautiful. Numerous incidental landscaped areas together with neatly maintained grass areas have been noted and are much admired. Young hedgerow and maturing hedgerow has also been noted.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The stretch of hedgerow along the Daingean entrance between the nameplate and the speed limit sign appears to be rather well managed for wildlife. The boundary wall of the GAA grounds should be painted and weed growth removed from its forecourt area. It would be valuable if a habitat survey was undertaken, particular in the hedgerows. The goal under this heading is to promote awareness and respect for wildlife, to identify any threats and take adequate protective measures.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was excellent during adjudication, although some of the litter bins were an eyesore in themselves.

TIDINESS

There are no major problems under this heading. Be vigilant regarding weed growth along kerbs and the base of walls. A few side areas to residential properties could be a little more tidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The beautiful stone wall with the brick pillars and capping to the residential property just inside the nameplate at the Daingean entrance was much admired. Some consideration might be given to grassing roadside areas to boundary walls of residential properties along this stretch of road. (Note: Two areas are already grassed.) The lawns of the Church View residential development are being impeccably maintained and the successful combination of tree species is complementary. The residential development out the Portarlinton road is an attractive self-contained development of bungalows. Many boundary walls need to be upgraded and a number of side areas are a little untidy also. A number of the properties in Church View are weather-stained and would benefit from cleaning or perhaps painting. If these are to be painted, then perhaps a co-ordinated colour scheme of soft pastel shades could be chosen.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The main road through the village is well presented as are entrance points (areas around nameplates). The challenge is to unify the various elements of the village, this might be achieved through hedgerow management and perhaps landscaping.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Welsh-Island is very favourable and it is always a pleasure to visit your lovely village.