

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **FINEA**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	222	220

Finea, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Finea is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the third millennium. Finea is a beautiful village with an interesting layout and a gently curved main street. It is very well presented and complements its wonderful rural setting on the banks of the river Inney. Do you have a planned work programme? Do send in more details with next year's application.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Garda station itself looks well but its roadside boundary wall needs some attention. The grey weatherstained walls and buildings on the left just beyond the Garda station and before the bridge are in urgent need of attention also. They could either be power hosed or painted. The 'seven eyed' bridge is a lovely feature of the village. It is good to note the old style gate posts being refurbished. The church looks quite magnificent in its 'splendid isolation' on the periphery of the village, some of its walls are in need of attention and the church itself will need a fresh coat of paint within a year or two to 'freshen' its appearance. Congratulations on the flower display (roses to the low roofed stone building on the Southern entrance into the village). Both 'Watty's Rock' and 'Cullens' signs look very well.

LANDSCAPING

The main street from the bridge on looks quite magnificent with its combination of very young, semi-mature and more mature trees. Shrubberies look well also as do flower displays. It is not necessary to feature flowers at the base of trees, these actually slow down the growth of the tree.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Well done on the presentation of the graveyard. Do, however, be vigilant regarding weed growth at the base of the wall here. The small riverside park is a wonderful development of your natural amenity and is a pleasure to experience. The stone picnic tables and seating are particularly attractive together with, of course, the more traditional ones. It is good also to note the traditional native Hawthorn on the opposite bank to the river park development. Is the picnic table and seat under the bridge, by accident or design? It provides welcome shelter on a wet day. The riverside park is being considered for the Waterside Award. You might consider a habitat survey to identify species and possible threats and to plan appropriate conservation measures. Keep the use of ornamental plants to an absolute minimum on the river bank.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is quite good. Be vigilant regarding weeds along kerbs. Small outbreaks were noted on adjudication. We note from your application that you organise regular litter picking. What other litter control activities do you undertake?

TIDINESS

The village has an overall appearance of tidiness but as noted elsewhere, weed growth along kerbs and at the base of walls is a problem under this heading. It is not extensive but it is one that should be checked.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The small residential development at the southern end of the village is beautifully presented. Unfortunately the play area with football nets and basketball is very much overgrown to the extent that they could not possibly be used now as a play area. This is an unfortunate development and perhaps one that could be redressed in the near future. A name stone is suggested for this residential development. The concrete block wall lining the entrance from the main road could be planted with a climbing plant. The majority of Finea's houses are beautifully presented, both town and country houses. One or two of the latter were noted to be in a poor condition and it is hoped that when they are refurbished, that they will retain their beautiful traditional features.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The northern entrance into the village is very disappointing with its dirty road signs, its eroded road verges and an unattractive drive situated across the road from the 'Community Alert' sign. This problem should be redressed by next year's competition as it creates a very poor impression / introduction to the village. The nameplate looked especially bad being caked with mud. Approach roads to Finea were lined by beautiful summer wild flowers which looked quite marvellous in the June sunshine. The southern entrance is as pleasant in its presentation as the northern entrance is unpleasant. Well done on this. Ensure the retention of old gate pillars by refurbishing these as necessary (note one on the southern entrance into the village). When the wirescape is ducted along the main streets of the village centre, Finea will come into its own with its good wide footpaths, a tree lined street and ample car parking facilities.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Finea is one of a very pleasant village with handsome features and which complements its wonderful rural setting and takes full advantage of its location

on the banks of the river Inney, well done!

SECOND ADJUDICATION (02/08/00)

The second adjudicator agrees with the comments of the first, particularly the apt comparison between the southern and northern approaches to the village. Litter was not a significant problem and weeds seemed to be less evident. Some bold paint colours were effective. Several yards and gateways tended to detract from the general standard of the streetscape. You should try to discourage commercial premises cluttering their frontage with goods and superfluous advertising signage. Notwithstanding the negative comments there were considerable signs of commitment to the village on the part of the community but as intimated at the outset of this report the drawing up of an action plan is advisable.