

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KINNEGAD**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	25
The Built Environment	40	23	21
Landscaping	40	25	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	10
Litter Control	40	20	22
Tidiness	20	9	8
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	18
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	160	152

Kinnegad, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Kinnegad is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the third millennium. There has been many changes in the village over the last number of years, most of them have improved the appearance of the village, and no doubt the quality of life, however building work is still on-going at the time of adjudication. It is appreciated that this creates a problem for the committee in presenting Kinnegad for the Tidy Towns Competition. However, do not lose heart, keep up the efforts even if it is only to maintain what you have already achieved and view this time as a transition period only, (transition periods are always difficult). Kinnegad has so much more to offer the travelling public than meets the eye. There are historical dimensions to the village as well as fine natural amenities, such as the river and its associated wildlife. No doubt in time the committee will ensure that these become accessible to the travelling public.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The overall presentation of buildings in the village is very good. You are of course aware of the problems created by derelict and vacant properties. These problems may be resolved within the next few years, given the demand for property in the current economic climate. The gable wall of the cottage premises located at the junction of the main street and the top of the Athlone road should be maintained whitewashed or planted with a climbing plant to 'soften' its appearance. The forecourt area to the community hall no doubt will be finished to a high standard when construction work has ceased here. The Granuaile looks well and the new shopping centre development is both well appointed and is being finished to a high standard. We look forward to the completion of the landscaping of the soft areas around the perimeter of the carpark.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaped area to the roadside of the church is very beautiful and is being considered for the landscape award. Well done on this fine achievement. Many of the young trees along the main street are not being maintained properly, weed growth at their base had been sprayed and looked quite ugly on adjudication day. The standard required would be the level of maintenance given to the young trees in the curtilage area of the church. If tended properly, as these trees mature they will have positive significant impact on the streetscape. The roadside landscaping to the visitor centre is maturing nicely. There is tremendous potential for development under this heading, particularly in newly developed green areas and

roadside verges associated with the development of the bypass.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There is no reference in your application to a project under this heading. Refer to your Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas and sources to help to get started. Good luck.

LITTER CONTROL

There was evidence of litter along the main street on adjudication day, and in particular to the side areas of vacant and derelict buildings, (the long grass and weeds here acted as a litter trap). In general litter was concentrated around busy business properties. Perhaps as bad as litter was the fact that the village centre needed a good sweeping, particularly along its kerbs where there was a concentration of dirt / soil and hundreds of cigarette ends. These kerbs did not look as though they had been swept for quite some time, so perhaps special attention should be given to this during the weekly sweeping. Many litter bins were in need of refurbishment.

TIDINESS

As noted above, there is a lot of building work in the course of development in the village and this makes it difficult to present well under this heading. The presence of derelict buildings, of course, present a problem in this regard also. However when these properties have been redeveloped, it is unlikely that there will be any major problems under this heading. Watch out for incidental corners and spaces and develop them as incidental amenity areas. Weed growth at the base of the wall to the roadside of the health centre is a problem. The entrance areas and general circulation area of the industrial estate at the top of the Athlone road also presents a problem under this heading. The roadside area to the sports grounds looks particularly bad. Although the mural here is attractive, it just needs to be cleaned up.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential properties are well presented. There have been many new housing developments in the last few years and these have been well finished. Town houses look well also. The Heathfield development would benefit greatly with some landscaping to its roadside edge. Its good to see the many young trees planted in the 'Riverside' estate. Do try to keep their surrounds and all grass verges well maintained. 'The Kinsbury' residential development is exceptionally well presented and the view of the church from this development is quite stunning.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

It is a pleasure to note the new traffic arrangements on the main street and the absence of the ugly traffic artifacts of previous years. The roundabout and the new bypass look well also, we look forward in time to the ducting of overhead service cables and the removal of the wirescape. No doubt the stretch of road from the roundabout on the Mullingar road leading into the village centre at the cottage will be landscaped for its entire length.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Kinnegad is one of a village with very much to offer the travelling public and it is hoped that the village will develop its capacity to fulfill its potential.