

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BUNCLODY**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	30
The Built Environment	40	31	29
Landscaping	40	27	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	16	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	207	195

Bunclody, County Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the completed application, the splendid range of photographs and the most useful, detailed map indicating the location of your various projects and improvements. We also appreciated your wishes for a pleasant visit to Bunclody, which it certainly proved to be. In a very much-enhanced presentation, pride of place must go to the delightfully presented and unique feature of the town, the Centre Mall Waterway. This arresting feature is a fitting centrepiece to a town which is remarkably well endowed by location and the range, scale and diversity of its buildings. Do not overlook, however, the splendid potential of the Slaney River, while, equally, being on your guard against the intrusiveness of inappropriately parked motorcars. The, perhaps unattainable, ideal would be to remove cars altogether from the central area, thus exposing the mall watercourse in all its splendour.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The centre has a delightful range of shops, many of which are very well presented, with fine paint schemes and other features. Other more modern buildings were also well presented. The Carrigduff National School, for example, makes skilful use of its grounds to accentuate the building proper. The Garda Station, while pleasant, was marred somewhat by the sign requiring painting. In the Mall area, C. Meyler, victualler and the pharmacy of Brendan Loftus were outstanding. Mulligan's New House (established 1834) was colourful, while over the bridge, Slaney Cottage and Slaney Lodge were imposing structures. The two churches added their meaningful contributions to the overall vistas but the impact of F.C.J Convent was diminished somewhat by the extent of spoil at the base of walls. Visually important, Meadowside Bed and Breakfast, was a delight. The impact of Pat Nolan's butcher shop, while still impressive, was somewhat reduced by the use of inappropriately sized promotional posters in the window.

LANDSCAPING

The tree-lined hills which surround Bunclody give it an enviable head start in the landscape category. The fine, robust wall, with well-cut verges on the Enniscorthy Road is a delight while planting here and on other approach roads are visually significant. The Amenity Centre, by the Fire Service, looks somewhat tired and the chain railing was trailing upon the ground. The Mall Watercourse, as noted above, was excellent and a delightful feature, but, for this adjudicator, somewhat diminished by the extent of car

parking surrounding it. On a different scale, the grotto in St Mary's Villas was a pleasant cameo.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river itself and its bank together with the Central Mall trees are a natural habitat for birds and wildlife. The large area, currently underused, opposite Furniture Concepts, seems ideal for use as a wildlife centre. Smaller, incidental areas, perhaps within the grounds of the National School, for example, are also suitable locations for small-scale habitat creation. It is beneficial to have a programme of information and introduction, particularly for young people, to develop and accentuate their interest in the natural environment surrounding them. The services of Dúchas – The Heritage Service, via their wildlife officer, or of a local enthusiast are earnestly recommended to the committee in this regard.

LITTER CONTROL

This is a category in which the centre did not advance as one might have hoped. Litterbins were in evidence at the main junction and, to a lesser extent, at other locations. An amount of litter had accumulated between the bridge and the toilets and, especially along the road from Riverview House junction outwards. This latter was quite marked and the area should be seen as a litter black spot and suitable plans advanced for amelioration.

TIDINESS

An improvement was noted here and is reflected in the marks. The repairs to the railings at the Vocational College are a strong plus, while we note your intention in respect of the fence at the National School. A derelict Ford car has taken root in the field next to the National School and swift remedial action is recommended. Sadly, the derelict house on the Enniscorthy Road continues as an intractable problem. A remedy may be sought under the Derelict Sites Act in association with the Local Authority. The Recycle for Life installation in the main square is a positive element. A number of the signs, notably in the centre of the town, would benefit materially from being washed or, as necessary, painting. The position in respect of all schools was much improved but some spoil and litter is still observed in the Vocational College on the right hand side of Irish Street.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A very high standard was maintained in this section. The "external" gardens on the Kildavin Road were excellent and individual houses achieved a wonderful standard. The communal grassed areas in Oliver Plunkett Park were very

well cut and a number of houses featured well-presented hedges and new railings. Spoil and weeds continue to be a difficulty between roads and pavement. Extensive additional housing is in construction at various locations throughout the centre. The houses on Irish Street were excellent. Carrigbeg Housing Estate was very well presented with fine plantings at the entrance area. The grotto in the communal grassed area was an added feature. Church Street also had a wide range of excellently presented houses and gardens.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

From the fine Welcome to Bunclody sign inward, a good standard of presentation was maintained. Grass verges on the approach roads were appropriately cut and we welcome the stone seating on this road. The sign, Borris 15, requires refurbishment. The purpose or function of the incongruous red pipes protruding from the ground near the bridge was not immediately apparent. Speed limit signs, generally, were very well presented as were the nameplate for the centre, notably on the Enniscorthy Road. The River Slaney sign, on the Gorey approach, required some attention. The surface of streets, notably Church Street, gave rise to concern. While much improved at many locations, the speed limit signs on Church Street continue to be obscured by growth.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

As will be clear from the material increase in marking, the strides made by Bunclody Tidy Towns Committee and the community generally are very apparent and worthy of our congratulations. A number of problems, none intractable, remain which if tackled with your, now customary, vigour, commitment and determination will soon be swept aside. Bunclody will continue its progress in the increasingly competitive Tidy Towns Movement.