

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **OULART**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	29
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	24	25
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	18	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	5	6
TOTAL MARK	300	179	179

Oulart, County Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The historic settlement of Oulart is perhaps still recovering from its monumental exertions linked to the bi-centenary of 1798. Thank you for the completed entry form, together with the useful map which was an aid during adjudication. Oulart enjoys clear-cut entry points to the village and these have been suitably accentuated by the small river crossing and bridge and elsewhere, by suitable hedge cutting and judicious planting at the village nameplate.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The '98 House beside the church is well presented but the entrance gate could, with advantage, be painted. The Garda Station was well presented as was the grotto opposite. The small stone bridge has a special prominence because of its location as the start point for the village. It might, with advantage, be whitewashed in the traditional manner. The old schoolhouse is whitewashed and this is a pleasant feature. Rosevale House is very well presented, as is the imposing church. The Post Office was well painted. Perhaps the front facing walls of its garden could be washed, especially at their base. The imposing alignment of boulders off the Enniscorthy Road has become somewhat overgrown and their visual significance is diminished as a result.

LANDSCAPING

Verges and hedges have been well cut back and the topiary outlining the pike at the bridge entrance point to the village is very well executed. The fine village nameplate, in stone, is a delight at this location. The flying of flags and the suitable presentation of the GAA grounds is important in this area. The grounds of the church also looked well. The trees in front of McAuley House are a strong, positive element while the planters and shrubs at the cemetery were a pleasant feature. The communal flowerbeds in the housing estate behind the church deserve additional planting for best effect. Individual gardens and minor planting played their part as well.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Being essentially a rural community, many aspects of birds and wildlife generally are always close and involved. The development of wildlife habitats, for example, within the school grounds, would help to create and nurture a lifelong interest in the creatures of the earth and air. A suitable

programme, embracing both identification and development of habitat, perhaps coupled with a series of talks on different aspects of bird and wildlife, is suggested.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter is still a problem in Oulart. Around the Post Office area and to a lesser extent throughout, there is a need for additional litterbins and evidence of a more caring attitude.

TIDINESS

The extent of building works in progress inevitably impacts on the overall tidiness of the centre and the adjudicator has allowed for this in his remarks. The extensive entrance area to the GAA grounds could, with advantage, be resurfaced with tarmac. Weeds continue to grow at the base of the walls leading to Oulart Hill. Broken and redundant signs, notably at the filling station, should be replaced while the plastic sign at Fintan Coogan would benefit from washing. The Recycle for Life installation is well positioned but had a number of items scattered around and not placed within the various receptacles.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The development of Oulart Court, when completed will be a material addition to the housing stock of the village. The trees and the communal grassed areas in the housing estate were very well presented. Additional houses are being constructed. Please replace the tree which has apparently died.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Speed limit signs generally on the approach roads were well presented, as were the village nameplates. In places the surface is not good and it is disappointing to note that within the housing estate, where traffic volumes might be expected to be modest, the road is clearly unravelling although relatively recently completed.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Following its great success and endeavours in respect of 1798, it is inevitable that there would be some decline in the energy levels within the community. It is strongly recommended that a three to four year programme be devised over the winter months for implementation next year and beyond. The courage, commitment and involvement of the committee will undoubtedly focus itself again on its presentation, leading to further strong advantage in how this village presents itself to the wider audience attracted to it because of its stirring history.

