

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **OYLEGATE**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	22	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	29	31
Tidiness	20	14	12
Residential Areas	30	22	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	179	177

Oylegate, County Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

After its dramatic increase last year, this year has represented a consolidation, a drawing of breath, preparing, hopefully, the next major leap forward. Oylegate is a village on the busy Dublin-Wexford Road. It enjoys clear-cut division because of the traffic calming measures which have given a definition and established the parameters of the village. Because of its location and topography, the road structure will always be the dominating feature of this centre. The presentation of the traffic calming devices on the Wexford Road was good whereas stone spoil and weeds have been allowed to accumulate on the Enniscorthy approach roads. Even allowing for the obvious difficulties, if possible, please sweep the approach roads, remove the weeds which have become such an intruding feature, overshadowing the shrubs planted on the traffic calming islands.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Substantial additional house building is in evidence on the school road. The Slaney Bar was well presented and enhanced further by hanging baskets and numerous large flower planters. Mernagh Bar was colourful and well presented. The Garda Station was neat, orderly and even outside the front facing walls there was an absence of traffic spoil or weeds. The Village Hall was looking a little tired and would benefit from remedial work or painting. The school and grounds, inclusive of the recent extension, were very well presented.

LANDSCAPING

Pleasant gardens opposite the school were well tended and suitably presented. The seven planters at Slaney Bar represent a commendable effort which is applauded. The device of flower-filled boats at both entrances to the village while colourful, may not now be viewed by some, as creative an idea as when originally developed. The extent of weeds at the base of trees, notably on the Enniscorthy Road, needs attention. A little effort here would generate substantial dividends in enhanced vistas.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The area in St David's Terrace, opposite the school, and other incidental locations throughout the centre offer ideal opportunities for the development of wildlife and birdlife habitats. The planting of suitable, berry-bearing shrubs will increase substantially the probability of additional and more

varied bird life. Please discuss the opportunities with a local wildlife enthusiast or consult the wildlife ranger of Dúchas, the Heritage Service. Although outside the village, the significance and importance of St David's Well makes it appropriate to comment upon. It is very well presented and richly deserves to be promoted as an interesting location to visit. The improvement by repainting or washing of the signposts on the main road is urgently recommended.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter amounts were small but were observed in various locations: around the phone box for example and the Village Hall. The Recycle for Life installation at the Village Hall was appropriately situated but the area itself was giving indications of overuse or an absence of appropriate servicing.

TIDINESS

The amount of stone and other spoil calls for attention. Weeds outside the school and at the Slaney Bar, notably between the roads and pavements and at the base of walls, intruded somewhat into the overall presentation in the centre. In the absence of repainting, which is the ideal, the use of a strong brush at the base of the walls of the Village Hall is recommended as a short-term remedial exercise.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Individual houses between the school and the junction were very well presented, many with splendid gardens. A number have not yet completed their front facing walls or installed appropriate entrances and this has led to an absence of an agreeable sense of containment and continuity along this approach road. The housing estate, St David's Terrace, was very well presented with a number of individually delightful gardens. The use of tubs and planters, where necessary, is clearly desirable but if the opportunity for ground planting is available, this is the preferred option. The Wexford Road Terrace, embracing the Post Office, was a delight and very well presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

As mentioned, the road through the centre helped to shape and define Oylegate. The 30mph speed limit signs and the traffic calming generally on the Enniscorthy Road would benefit from cleaning. The removal of overgrowth, particularly at the shrubbery, is recommended. Cutting the verge from the 30mph sign inwards is suggested. The cleaning of the black and amber kerbstones would add colour and neatness to the overall presentation, as would the already recommended sweeping of the roads here. The same comments, in general, apply to the Wexford approach

but the verges here have already been better presented. The trees look well but the shrubs have been overtaken by grass on the left-hand side on the Enniscorthy approach. Road surfaces on the main road are clearly of a high order and on the school road were also acceptable.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Oylegate has many attractive features and in St David's Well it has a unique attribute of great interest. The difficulties preventing the more appropriate presentation of the shrubs on the Enniscorthy Road are regretted and it is hoped that a suitable solution can be found to what is viewed as an important aesthetic element within this charming village.