

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RAMSGRANGE**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	29	26
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	20
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	194	190

Ramsgrange, County Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ramsgrange, an interesting historic and significant centre, continues to advance in the manner of its presentation. Thank you for details of your three-year plan and also the map of the centre which was most helpful on the day of adjudication. It is useful to give a structure and to set down, as you have done in your plan, your objectives and intentions over the next number of years. All of the aspirations in your programme for the year 2000 are applauded with a slight reservation about the creation of flowerbeds at the base of each signpost. Unless the resources exist for extensive planting at each location, it may be preferable to concentrate your efforts, for example, at Ballysullock Cross and within the centre itself – a good location being the triangle at the church junction. Certainly, the encouraging of window boxes on the houses and commercial premises within the village is very desirable and will yield strong dividend in terms of enhanced presentation. The presence of loose stone, chiefly and other spoil on road surfaces needs attention. Undoubtedly, the potential of the historic graveyard with its atmospheric gates and tall walls, should be examined with a view to highlighting and emphasising this most interesting element of the village story.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Individual elements within the centre are significant. The large scale church is a delight and well presented. The Post Office was well presented with good window boxes. The Sportsman's Inn looked well and the mural is important, visually, because of its location. The tall wall between the church and the day care centre is an important feature and its treatment will be significant in its impact on the village itself. Please take advice on the plans to re-point the stones here as there are several different methods and opinions differ on how best to retain the traditional view and aspect. The modern schools were very well presented. Other buildings, likewise, contributed to an overall agreeable vista.

LANDSCAPING

The scale of planting at Ballysullock Cross has to be questioned. To be effective it is necessary to use large scale planting and, to ensure a permanent display, careful selection of suitable shrubs is recommended. The level of planting at the junction by the church is excellent but for best effect, wash the kerbstones. School grounds were well presented but you are alerted to the chain mail fence which has become somewhat slack and untidy. The cemetery

beyond the day care centre was very well presented and the easement of the corner here has been well executed. The pedestrian entrance area would benefit from a good washing, particularly at the base of walls and around the gate. The planting of firs on the right-hand side of this approach road towards the centre are a delight and add considerable interest to this approach road. The trees and the verges on the Arthurstown approach road are very well presented.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

In a centre like Ramsgrange, where the countryside is never remote, it may seem unnecessary to positively encourage the creation of wildlife habitats within the village itself. This aspect of the village presentation is now seen as an important area of activity for Tidy Towns groups. It can best be advanced by the creation, perhaps in association with a local wildlife or birdlife enthusiast, or by engaging the services of the wildlife ranger from Dúchas, the Heritage Service, to produce a three or four year programme. Ideally the programme should embrace the identification of suitable settings, recommendations for their treatment and the whole supplemented by a series of talks or discussions with school children and other groups within the community.

LITTER CONTROL

Although litter has not been eradicated, there continues to be a gradual improvement. We noted with approval the suitably sized and sensibly designed litterbin at the phone box. The school grounds were delightfully clear of disfiguring litter. The provision of more litterbins is always to be encouraged.

TIDINESS

The Recycle for Life installation was appropriately sited and clearly being used. Small amounts of weeds were noted at the base of walls and this is disappointing. The phone box was neatly presented. We reserve our adverse comment for the current condition of the village nameplate on the Wexford approach road. It is seriously misleading and understating the standard achieved within the village generally and calls for its replacement or at least urgent painting and repairing.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses on the Wexford Road in general were very well presented. It is important that the owners be encouraged to complete their front facing walls and install suitable entrances. A clear-cut division between the private land and the road is important. The house opposite the entrance to the Day Care Centre is an absolute delight in its

presentation and that of its garden.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The hedges and verges have been suitably cut back on all approach roads. The 30 mph sign on the Wexford approach road is somewhat faded. The road surface by the old graveyard, leading to the Aiteann housing estate is seriously below par and deserves urgent remedial action. The presentation of the Arhurstown/Duncannon Road was of a very high order and tree planting along here was excellent. There continues to be a slight tendency, although improving, for allowing the build-up of spoil at the side of roads and at the base of walls.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ramsgrange continues to improve and there is increasing evidence of a more widespread community involvement in this success. This sense of engagement is both necessary and important if Ramsgrange is to continue to enhance its appearance and advance still further in the Tidy Towns movement. All associated with this presentation are applauded for their efforts and encouraged to spend the winter months planning and devising how best to present themselves to a growing number of visitors next year.