

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SALTMILLS**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-2000

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2000 | Mark Awarded 1999 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 20 | 20 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 21 | 19 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 24 | 23 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 15 | 15 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 29 | 29 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 14 | 13 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 16 | 16 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 23 | 23 |
| General Impression | 10 | 5 | 5 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 167 | 163 |

Saltmills, County Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed entry form and your ongoing efforts to present this, most interesting of locations. The Causeway is a particularly dramatic entrance point and it is suggested that some of your efforts be concentrated in this area. The trees on the Tintern Abbey Road have become very much overgrown by encroaching grass. They are, potentially, such a favourable feature that efforts to remove the encircling undergrowth would pay substantial dividends. The large anchor is a fine, robust presentation.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church of Ireland is a small yet attractive structure which would be even more appealing if the overgrown grass in its grounds were appropriately cut. The Vine Cottage Bar and Beer Garden is a delightful structure, as are the small walls of the Found Garden.

LANDSCAPING

Applause for the fine picnic area at the Causeway. Check again the suitability of the entrance area to it. The presentation of the Wexford Coastal Path was well done and suitably sited. The planting by the village pump needs attention and the surrounding road swept. The very fine range of trees on the Tintern Road is now sadly overgrown by encroaching grass. An example of how attractive they could look is apparent from the work done at the 30 mph speed limit sign area. The use of suitable screening at commercial premises is recommended.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The small community provides many opportunities for identifying and enhancing bird and wildlife habitats. It is important to commence such a development by recognising the natural food chain. Provision of berry-bearing shrubs and wild flowers is a requirement. Please consult a local wildlife or Bird Ireland enthusiast and devise a suitable programme for implementation over a year or two.

LITTER CONTROL

The Recycle for Life installation appeared to be well used. There is no large scale difficulty in Saltmills, rather a small sprinkling of litter whose eradication can be achieved by increased thought and the provision, at appropriate locations, of litter bins.

TIDINESS

Some elements of Saltmills were very well presented. The very orderly presentation of the Causeway contrasted with the overgrown grass on the Tintern Road. The delight of the Vine Cottage was reduced somewhat by the extent of builders' debris stored, apparently for a long time, at the back of their car park. The phone box was neat and well-presented and individual houses were similarly up to scratch.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The new house at the 40mph speed limit sign is a substantial, valued addition to the housing stock. It is important to complete the front facing wall with a view to maintaining the street line and a sense of containment and continuity which is important to the visual entity of Saltmills.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the Causeway, the right-hand side 40mph speed limit sign appears to be missing and the left-hand side needs to be washed, at least, and ideally, repainted. On the Tintern Abbey Road, the poles supporting the 40 mph speed limit indicators need to be repainted. The verges and the walls of the Causeway were particularly pleasing in their presentation. A similar, clear-cut division between the village and its surrounding, rural countryside is desirable at the other end of the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Saltmills has a delightful location in its favour and a fair range of buildings of quality, supplemented with some interesting small-scale features. The presentation of it calls for a spirited response by the community generally to the items listed above. There are no major inherent difficulties in the centre, rather it is a question of attending to the many minor items which collectively help shape the village and determine how visitors will perceive the community.