

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ROYAL OAK**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	31
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	18	16
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	19
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	184	177

Royal Oak, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your application form and comprehensive three year Development Plan. You have set out clearly your objectives and it is an excellent guide for your Committee. It is also something which can be built on over the coming years. You have, as advised, established a very good working relationship with the Local Authority and also the Barrow Nore Suir Leader Group. Do continue to liaise with FAS who may be able to help out later on this year. Perhaps for next year an appeal should be made to the wider community to come on board and give whatever assistance they can with this very valuable work which you are doing for Royal Oak. Involve young people if you can. They will be members of your Tidy Towns Committees in the years ahead. Perhaps another way would be to get the younger members of the Committee's families involved.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The two pubs continue to be well presented and no doubt the building rubble will be removed from the yard of the pub which has been recently renovated. It is essential that weeds in the car parks of commercial properties are kept weed free. The disused petrol pump, as indicated last year, should be refurbished or removed. The shop is well presented but perhaps it should look at the number of advertising signs on it. Perhaps an approach to the owner of the Engineering works would help and they would more than likely be delighted to help in any way they can. When the gates of the O'Grady estate are repaired and painted it will certainly bring about a big improvement in that area and your plans for a feature around the entrance would enhance this area.

LANDSCAPING

Oak Grove, which was a millennium project is an outstanding asset for the community to have. The maintenance of this area is very good. The trees and shrubs continue to be maintained very well and are maturing nicely. It is good to see that no vandalism was evident throughout the Oak Grove. One small point would be to trim the grass under the seats and around the trees. Perhaps a member of the Committee might approach the owner, who has a rusty galvanised piece at the field entrance to put a gate there. It is visible at the top of Oak Grove. The landscaping on the bank at the bus shelter is coming on nicely and the selection of shrubs and plants there is very good. The sloping bank going towards the entrance to the main road again is well cared for. The shrub bed would need some weeding. The planting around

the name stone was well cared for and it was weed free.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is good to see that you intend to develop a wild life habitat along the river and to sign post it. The hedgerow by Oak Grove should be explored because it is a habitat for many wild plants and bird life. A useful information leaflet can be had from the Environmental Information Service 17 St Andrews Street, Dublin 2. Progress under this category will add greatly to your area.

LITTER CONTROL

The overall control of litter was very good. The measures you have put in place are achieving good results. There were some small amounts in the vicinity of the bank and the shop. Again one has to be aware and vigilant at all times in the control of litter.

TIDINESS

Weeds at kerbs need attention in the area across from the bank above the bus stop. This area does need to be tidied up. Again this year there was an absence of fly posting and graffiti throughout. The control of weeds on other kerbs throughout was very good.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential properties are well presented. The area does not have a large bank of housing but when the new houses presently being built are completed they will no doubt be finished to a high standard.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The car park beside Oak Grove was clean and tidy however it would need to be resurfaced and marked. The signs throughout would need to be cleaned and painted. New signs were in good condition. The bridge is a very attractive structure and the hanging baskets give a nice affect. The approach roads were maintained in good condition and the verges were tidy.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You continue to do very good work and your three year plan will help you enormously. The Committee still continue to make great efforts, overcome difficulties with the roads and your proximity to the main road. It will take time for you to achieve results. You have a plan in place and that certainly is an excellent guideline for you. We hope you will be successful with recruiting some younger members to your Committee. Your work and contribution to having the area look its very best is no doubt appreciated by the community.