

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **FINEA**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	41
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	28	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	220	222

Finea, Co. Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

No details of plan was available but clearly good tidy town work is taking place in Finea. The southern side of the village in particular was well presented but concern must be raised about the presentation north of the river although it was noted that the public house had displayed window box flowers. The general approach from this end how ever, was disappointing.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is an exceptional display of hanging basket and footpath potted flowers the full length of the main street. These are complimented by a water pump feature at the southern end and a shrubbery with its bird feeding station midway to the left. Both sides of the street have trees with flowers at their bases. The house and shop fronts are brightly coloured and nicely presented. Watty Rocks public house looks particularly well. As everywhere else, new developments or refurbishment introduce more plastic windows. The church at the southern end of the village is cleanly presented in grey colours and also some maturing trees to its left.

LANDSCAPING

Along the Castlepollard entrance a new footpath is being developed and stone gate pillars have been restored. A private garden to left with nice stone is beautifully presented with flowers, roses, and shrubs. At the commencement of the built up area is a nice open grass area with floral display. There is new housing development taking place with its attendant disruption of road frontages. There is a run of small tin roofed houses to right.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river side amenity on both sides of the bridge are very well developed. One facilitates angler boat access to Lough Sheelin, and the other a picnic location with tables, benches and cut lawn. Both access paths are well dressed with plants and flowers. This is a very attractive nature and wildlife area with riverside walk. The rural location of Finea should provide many opportunities for suitable projects under this heading. In identifying projects seek the advice of ENFO - a public information service established by the Minister for the Environment and Local Government or contact your area wildlife ranger.

LITTER CONTROL

The village centre is virtually litter free. The grass verges on access roads are nicely presented but there was a little litter in evidence.

TIDINESS

Footpaths are in good condition but some of the dead weed has not been removed. The village name plate in its floral planter looks very well. The caravans in the field on the Cavan side of the river should be suitably screened.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The small residential area on the southern side of the village looked well despite the attendant difficulties of the nearby new housing development. In almost all cases individual houses were attractively presented as were the residences in the main street built up area.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There is some wall weed at the bridge. The entrance to the bridge has a floral pot on its pillar but beside that is an unkempt grass verge. On the north side of the village hedges have been trimmed and some work has been done on grass margins. The Finea Road sign suffers from road spray and there is an incidence of house dilapidation here. As mentioned in last year's report the ducting of overhead wires would improve presentation. All in all the main road is in good condition and the village presented very well.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Finea displays a high level of community spirit and the village has enjoyed considerable success over the past number of years. New investment in building projects should be measured to ensure that the a balance is maintained in village services. Presentation is good particularly the landscaping of the main street. Well done!