

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **HACKETSTOWN**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	26	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	16	15
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	23
General Impression	10	5	6
TOTAL MARK	300	180	181

Hacketstown, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

The committee of five is very small for such a large village and where there is so much work to be done. Some form of promotion to entice and encourage people to take part in the activities of the tidy towns committee is the initial approach needed. Getting cooperation from business interests and public and voluntary bodies should be worked on. A comprehensive plan of action to develop the full potential of the village is needed. This need only be a list of all the items that need to be dealt with; when, how and by whom they will be achieved.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is a large core of fine buildings in the village. The new school, fire station and church as well as many commercial properties and residences make a fine collection of buildings. The amount of derelict buildings and those needing attention is significant. An inventory, street by street and road by road of all the needs of the village would be a start to making plans for progress. The old Church of Ireland with its well kept cemetery is an asset. The large cemetery with new car park along site was noted. The old Duffy's premises hopefully will find a new lease of life.

LANDSCAPING

Individual gardens contribute well to the overall landscape of the village. The entrance and approach to Kepak on the cemetery road is well landscaped and presents a pleasant picture. Greens at Mountain View and Marion Terrace are well presented. Some more tree planting opportunities arise anywhere there are green areas.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As was mentioned last year there are opportunities to gain under this heading. Involvement of schools and people with local knowledge could make interesting developments in this regard. There is ample wild life in and around the village - being in the core of the countryside.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is an aspect that needs much improvement in this village. In the main street litter was evident all along the footpaths. This presented a very unattractive picture and if one item was to be concentrated upon - this would be the most valuable.

TIDINESS

Kerbsides weeds, derelict buildings, particularly alongside the Catholic Church and the

adjacent corner continuing into the next street. An old petrol pump near the Fire station and a semicircular fronted shed also give an untidy look. Hopefully the work at the wall of the school will be completed soon.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The large housing estates are cared for. Some individual home owners take extra pride in their homes and gardens. Some form of competition between the roads and between individuals may help promote higher standards.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads are well maintained and some road surfacing in recent times has given better road surfaces. The simple formula of well kept grass, tidy verge edges. and tree planting proves invaluable in villages similar to Hacketstown

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Hacketstown is a village with a good structure and there are tremendous opportunity for improvements to be made.