

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	18	18
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	19
General Impression	10	7	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>184</b>

## **ROYAL OAK, CO. CARLOW**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH**

Royal Oak is a very unusual village as it seems to be perched on the edge of a busy roadway with all the pressures of fast moving traffic within a few metres away. Great credit is due to those who work at maintaining and improving the village and producing such results in a difficult situation. The plan submitted last year has charted your future pattern and hopefully this will keep on target - adaptations can be made to keep on track.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The two pubs and the shop dominate the village. Painting and decorating of the pubs keeps a good standard on the village. The shop and auctioneer business premises are also well presented. Some painting of the wall that surrounds the car park of the Royal Oak Tavern would be helpful. The surface of this carpark could be improved - preferably with a hard and solid surface. The old petrol pump still remains and hopefully that can be removed someday. The 1798 memorial has a pleasant design and can be seen both by the village and by passing traffic. Buildings along the old road cul de sac are variable from being very well kept to a little less. The derelict house is very unsightly.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The main road frontage with good grass, shrub plantings and seats forms an important part of the landscape of the village and is an attractive boundary for the village. Some gardens are very attractive and add to the overall landscape of the village - notably the garden beside the auctioneers premises. Landscape work at the top of the Maras Oak Bar forms an interesting landscape and during fine weather must form a very pleasant place for association with the bar. Attention to weeding of shrubberies is important - particularly in the early years when competition can be difficult for the shrubs.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The maintenance of hedges as planned in the application is indeed a very important aspect of wildlife conservation. The hedgerows are an important source of refuge for many insects, birds and small animals. Involvement with local schools in devising programmes that increase an awareness of the wildlife in a neighborhood are very worthwhile.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

There is generally a good level of litter control in the village, the passing traffic may be a source of litter making extra vigilance necessary. Small amounts of litter were noted but overall the litter programme seems to be working well.

### **TIDINESS**

Again this year a little attention is needed by the bus shelter. Some kerbside weeds emerge very quickly, particularly in the moist and dull summer to date. The petrol pumps as stated above do give an untidy impression.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The small number of residences are kept well. The committee of 12 is a sizable number for a small village. They have kept the interest in the competition going well by their work and taking of responsibility to guide the improvement of the village and they deserve great credit for this.

### **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The few roads involved are well tended and Carlow County Council no doubt helps to keep areas tidy and maintained. The approach roads have a good standard and a consistence which is very good.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The efforts of the tidy towns committee are to commended for taking the interest to work hard and encourage others to do likewise for the betterment of the village. Such efforts also forge good community relationships where there is a common goal.