

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **EDENDERRY**
County : **OFFALY**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	18	19
Tidiness	20	7	7
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	185	185

Edenderry, County Offaly

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Edenderry is a town with many good qualities including a fine layout, several imposing buildings, canal, etc. The town has all the ingredients to do well, however, a lot of work still has to be done before you reach your true potential. Much more attention should be paid to the basics such as litter control and a higher standard of maintenance of grassed areas. More frequent sweeping of street guttering, etc. is also necessary. A development plan should be prepared which would focus on areas that need attention and which would prioritise actions. Your detailed sketch map was very helpful.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The quality of many of the public buildings is one of the best features of the town. The Churches and several stone schools stand out. The imposing Town Hall set in the square is the focal point of the town. Most of the business premises are well cared for. The Bank of Ireland is an exception and is badly maintained. Painting would make a big difference to it. The frontage of the Tesco Supermarket is not in keeping with the streetscape. Several of the industrial type buildings have landscaped grounds. The Cattle Mart is an eyesore which badly needs to be upgraded. A number of the garage forecourts are untidy as is the frontage of Eden Feeds.

LANDSCAPING

The grass is cut in the housing estates but a number of areas need more regular cutting, e.g. at Workhouse cemetery area. In other areas, corner sections are left un-cut as is the grass around street furniture etc. In these housing estates communities must be encouraged to get more involved and not leave everything to the Local Authority. In several locations shrubberies have been planted but in most cases inadequate maintenance undoes most of the benefit. The main street in the town is wide and would be suitable for tree planting. In time trees would greatly enhance the already attractive streetscape. The shrubs covering the boundary wall of the G.A.A. grounds together with the other landscaping work is very effective and could be a model for other G.A.A. grounds throughout the country. Well done!

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Grand Canal is a wonderful amenity for the town with its boating, fishing and walking possibilities. On the day of inspection several youths were to be seen fishing. The Church walk is also a splendid amenity and well maintained. The canal is also an important habitat for a wide variety of plant and animal life. There are several maps and information plaques in the harbour area and these all add interest. Unfortunately the standard of maintenance of grassed areas and shrubberies, etc. is poor and substantial amounts of litter was trapped in the harbour.

LITTER CONTROL

A major effort is required to bring litter control up to standard. Litter is present on stretches of most approach roads in many of the housing estates and is particularly noticeable in many gap and wind trap areas throughout the town.

TIDINESS

Improved maintenance of footpaths and kerbing, better litter control and more regular sweeping of street gutters would make a big difference to the appearance of the town.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are a large number of attractive houses and gardens throughout the town. Many boundary walls need painting. The introduction of an award scheme for housing estates has been very successful in other towns and should be introduced in Edenderry.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Many road surfaces throughout the town need upgrading. Footpaths and kerbing are in poor condition in several places and while extensive footpath repair work is in hand, this often highlights adjoining stretches that need upgrading. It is a pity that funds are not available to lay down totally new footpaths. This would give a much better overall impression.

GENERAL

Edenderry is a town with considerable potential. You need to have a plan and a work programme. This approach has the best chance of success and can maximise support from the community and state agencies. Keep going. Don't be disheartened.