

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **WELSHISLAND**  
County : **OFFALY**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	34	33
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>207</b>

## Welshisland, County Offaly

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Welshisland is a small community with a dispersed centre and several lengthy approach roads. These conditions create certain problems for the community such as how best to deal with approach roads and where the village boundaries start, etc. Landscaping work has been carried out at several of the wider bends on the Portarlington Road. These are at a considerable distance from the central area of the village and you need to carefully consider whether these works are sustainable in the longer term. The village has now reached a stage where you need to consider your future direction. You should prepare a development plan which would address these and other issues and which would focus on how you see the village developing.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The village has developed in a ribbon like fashion basically along the Portarlington/Daingean Roads and there is also a considerable amount of individual new housing development taking place. The cut stone forge is a little gem of a building, beautifully set off with its red door and attractive planting. The Church, School and Cemetery are well kept. Well planted flower tubs would lift the parking area in front of the Island Inn. The derelict pumps are becoming an eyesore and should be removed.

### **LANDSCAPING**

As has already been mentioned you should carefully consider the most appropriate landscaping policy for the village. There are several small shrubberies in various locations, e.g. on the Edenderry Road but these are really too small to make much of an impact and their value has to be questioned. Flowerbeds can make a big contribution but they must be well sited and maintained and there need not be a large number of them. There are a number of locations where screening trees could be planted, e.g. on ditch almost opposite the Island Inn which would camouflage the tall rusting poles and safety nets.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Hedge rows are important habitats and should be managed with wildlife in mind especially nesting birds. Hedge trimming should only take place in early spring or autumn. When planting, native species of trees should be preferred especially of the berried variety as these support the widest variety of wildlife.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control is good and only a light scattering was noted in grass margins in a few locations.

## **TIDINESS**

Certain parts of the village have a much tidier appearance than others. The most cared for part of the village stretches from the School to the Daingean/Edenderry Roads. Weedy margins and grass verges that need more regular cutting detract from the other section of the village.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There are many well presented houses and gardens throughout the village. A number on the Daingean Road stand out and there are others. Several new houses are in various stages of construction. A number of properties need to weed gravelled boundary areas. Church View is presented to a very high standard with neatly trimmed grass, trees and an attractive shrubbery, however weeds need attention at wooden boundary fence.

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

Several stretches of grass verges would look much better if cut more regularly. The car park at the driving range is in an important location in the village centre and is unsightly with dumped material and weeds. Weeds are also very noticeable in the road margin between the School and the Island Inn.

## **GENERAL**

Welshisland has the potential to do much better in the competition.

A planned approach is the best way forward.