

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GRANGE CON**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	30
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	32	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	14
Litter Control	40	24	22
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	197	190

Grange Con, County Wicklow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Grangecon is a very small and compact village. The effort of the tidy towns committee is extremely evident and they have managed by cooperation, to achieve a great deal of interesting work over the years. The plan is comprehensive, practical, feasible and concise. The idea of marking off the achievements year by year shows great determination and commitment to the plan. Well done to all concerned.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Buildings are varied, from the 18th century to the more modern school and the houses at Mallenswood. The village pubs are looking very well and the residences along the street look well cared for. The church and hall are nicely positioned at the centre of the village. The wire-mesh sculpture is a lovely piece and so well placed. Stonewalls are an excellent feature of the village. These have been used very well in many places and are a very strong asset of the village. The path to the school is very useful, practical and gives safety. The stone name plates for the village at all the entrances give a nice character to the entrances. The pump with surrounding granite stone piers looks well. The school wall frontage to road and railings would need some attention as the gates and wall need painting and one section requires rehangng.

LANDSCAPING

There is very good emphasis on landscaping in the village. This is enhanced by the upkeep of many gardens both in and around the village and at Mallenswood. The tree planting in several places is laudable. There are many very fine mature beech and ash trees and it is wise to keep a continuity of planting of such "real" trees as well as the commonly planted ornamental garden trees. The two chestnut trees at the top of the village by the large house are tremendous. The new chestnuts planted along the roadside beyond these were noted. The millennium tree is a lovely choice and the tree looks very well with its very well kept surrounds. Beech hedging has been planted in several places and this will make a lovely hedge and is very appropriate to the landscape of the surrounds of the village. The sober use of containerised plants in the village is appreciated.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Goose island project is good. There are three little streams crossing the village. The culverting of the stream at the church prevents natural vegetation from developing and maybe an alternative style could be considered. The planting of Photinia on the bank was noted.

LITTER CONTROL

A very good level of litter control was noticed in the village.

TIDINESS

There is an extremely tidy appearance in the village centre. The overhead wires will, in time, be removed. The old petrol pump was noted. In the Mallens Wood estate the back of a corrugated iron shed appears and is a little unwelcome. A few dead trees and a car that looks like it will not travel any more take a little from the tidiness. Wheeled bins overfilled and left on the roadside on Sunday afternoon are not the most attractive item. Some attention to the grass weeds in the paving at the hall beside the church would be helpful.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The Mallenswood estate is well cared for. The entrance shrubbery is attractive with a wide range of well kept shrubs on display. The individual houses are well kept and some have particularly nice gardens. Individual houses on the roads look well and add to the village scene.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The stone wall, beech, thorn and ample hedges in places. All give a very pleasant aspect to the village. There are great numbers of mature trees in the region and these give a lovely background to the village. Road surfaces are good.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Grangecon is a very pleasant village to visit. The attention to detail is very noticeable and there is a sense of pride in the many projects that have taken place.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/02)

Grange Con is an attractive and unusual village which was a pleasure to visit for the first time. The approach roads were generally neat although the area by the welcome sign on the Stratford approach appeared somewhat overgrown. The junction sign (also on this road) was quite rusty and should be replaced. Minor outbreaks of weeds were apparent to the kerbside outside the Post Office and to the paved area to the front of the grotto. A minor outbreak of litter was spotted by the phone box but generally litter control was extremely good. Congratulations on the well-deserved increase in marks-Grange Con has certainly come a long way since its Endeavour Award!