

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **STRATFORD-ON-SLANEY**  
County : **WICKLOW**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	8	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>228</b>

## **Stratford-on-Slaney, County Wicklow**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH**

This is a very orderly, well organised and compact village in which great care and attention has been taken to conserve the characteristic components and to improve the village in a very attractive manner. The plan and map were very useful in charting the progress of the work and seeing the direction that is being taken.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The School, Church of Ireland, which is a little gem, and the Catholic Church are all well maintained. The Catholic church will need painting as staining on the walls is appearing now. The Stratford Community centre is well painted and neatly tucked away . The petrol station would benefit from a little attention particularly the garage and the old petrol pump. Stone walls are a major feature of the village and the many fine examples of stone walls give a lovely character to the village. The black and white benches add a very sober element to the scene. The walls by the Doctor's road are beautiful and complemented by the neatly trimmed hedges. Some disruption due to building work is occurring in the main street and in the Church of Ireland cul de sac, but this is temporary. The new houses are nicely situated and do not interfere with the texture of the village. The footpaths and road to these are well constructed but the remaining areas of the site need finishing including the entrance. Several of the buildings in the main area have been painted well, however some of the road side walls need painting where staining has occurred with time.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The Chestnut trees are a beautiful sight in the main area. It would be good if more towns and villages would take example from this and use these beautiful trees more frequently. The village green is well tended and the regular borders look well. Well kept grass, trees and good walls are the special formula that makes this village landscape look so well. The planting of spring flowering bulbs is an excellent idea and the village must look very well in springtime. The road to the Community hall is attractive with the broad, well kept grass verges and the large ash trees further up. The large cherry tree appears to be dying. The conifers have swallowed some of the other cherries.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The Children's garden is an excellent idea and the work there is encouraging. Projects of this kind are excellent for giving children an appreciation of nature and their environment. The blue painted wall with white clouds is attractive.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

There is very good litter control management in the village. Litter, however, was noted outside the school. Because the litterbin was full it is possible that birds may have disturbed the bin and torn the litter from it. A solution to this is needed. Litter was also noted at the Catholic Church. The compost making initiative is a very good idea.

## **TIDINESS**

There is an extremely tidy appearance to the village. Some issues could be addressed such as the rough surface in front of the pathway at the end of the village which leads to the road below and the painting of walls. The disruption caused by the building is unhelpful in this respect. Also, the finish to the roadside at the houses along the start of the cemetery road could be improved.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The residential areas are nicely arranged in the side roads of the village and with some on the main area. Generally houses and gardens are very well cared for. Each plays a part in presenting a very attractive picture and adding to the overall landscape of the village.

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

The roads are well maintained and as stated above the combination of stone walls, well-groomed grass verges and trees and hedges makes a very pleasant scene.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

A visit to this village is a very pleasant experience. There is a green and natural appearance - a restful appearance. The work input is reflected in the very fine results. The village merges very well with the surrounding countryside, which is creditworthy.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/02)**

The lettering to the sign below the Children Crossing sign on the Dublin approach to the village needed some attention. The simply presented green spaces with marvellous mature trees were greatly admired. The efforts to screen the re-cycling bins by the school were noted and should make a great difference when they reach maturity. The retention of the traditional telephone box is laudable. However, the perspex has been badly damaged and it is suggested that this be replaced with its original glass. The buildings of the village such as the Community Centre and school looked extremely well. The initiative to plant a tree for each child in the school in the park area is a marvellous one and should not only provide a magnificent amenity for future generations but also give them a direct connection with the natural environment.