

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CAHER**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	24
The Built Environment	40	25
Litter Control	40	25
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	183

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The information and notes from the Lough Graney Rural Development Association and the accompanying map suggests that the local community is becoming more involved in the competition and in improving their own place. In co-operation with the County Council, FAS, East Clare LEADER Company and other agencies, Caher can better its position in the competition and can develop its rich resources i.e. its natural setting In aice na gcoilltge, I gcoim an tsleibhe and the lakeshore which runs the full length of the village. The notes with the village map in Section D of the entry form shows that the Development Association has a plan that quite correctly concentrates on the lakeshore area from Bunshoon Bridge right through to the proposed amenity area opposite the campsite; in fact it could be extended on to Caher Cross. However, the opposite side of the road over the same distance must also be an integral part of the plan, with individual property owners responsible for better presentation and maintenance.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The improvement of the lakeshore area and the proposed new amenity areas will greatly improve the natural amenities of the village and the development of walks and nature trails around the lake and surrounding countryside (as shown on display map opposite the Post Office) is to be commended. There is potential for greater nature conservation in the village. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats of your catchment area and see what species of animals, birds and fish these attract. Look to your local environmental experts and groups to get involved.

LANDSCAPING

The planting of flowers in the village centre is good and the involvement of the School is to be commended. The flower boxes at the car park/bridge could be replanted to the same high standard as in the village centre. The landscaping of the new amenity areas will be crucial in the future presentation of the whole village. Improvements in this area would ensure further success in the Clare in Bloom awards.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment - commercial or business premises in the village itself are few but they are as such well maintained - the tourist office, Post Office, the thatched self catering cottage and the Caravan Park. The Telecom Eireann installation that looked so well in 1995, the grass badly needs cutting - the same applies to the grounds of the parish Church out the Feakle road.

LITTER CONTROL

The village was noticeably free of litter on the day of inspection. Litter bins should be provided with all new amenity areas. The litter/refuse collection service which has been set up in the parish with the backing of the Development Association is something that other villages could copy.

TIDINESS

The overall impression in terms of tidiness is spoiled by poorly maintained grass verges, at least at the time of adjudication. The new strimmer, mentioned in the report, could be put to good use throughout the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private houses in the village are, as in 1995, well maintained and presented. The farmhouse (and new entrance) on way in from the bridge, the new house and the stone walls being built, the houses around the village centres; around the Post Office and the houses on the road to Caher Cross are all to be

commended.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach roads and through the village the verges could be better maintained. The fencing around the car park at Bunshoon Bridge needs re-doing. The village Well, an interesting feature, is almost hidden from view in the overgrown grass verge.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression is that the village is being developed and improved following a well-thought out plan. It is essential that the efforts concentrate on the natural amenities of river and lake, the surrounding woods, mountain and rural setting. The naturalness of the village setting is a great resource; and is what makes this village so attractive to visitors. When the lakeshore developments are completed picnic facilities and seating should be provided to encourage visitors to stop and enjoy the Caher experience.