

Tidy Towns 1996

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLIFDEN**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18
Landscaping	40	20
The Built Environment	40	24
Litter Control	40	21
Tidiness	20	7
Residential Areas	30	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	160

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

A key factor in the Adjudication Criteria for 1996 is evidence that the whole community is involved in the task of caring for the environment. You are to be complimented for inaugurating a Clifden Regeneration Plan to cover the next five years. We look forward to the publication of the details.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The weekly wildlife programme on Connemara Community Radio is an excellent idea. Your area is so rich with wildlife that it would be marvellous, especially for Schools, to initiate projects for the collation of information on the habitats of animals and birds as well as the identification of wild flowers. We would like to see the further development of nature trails and adequate sign posting of natural features. At all times ensure suitable access for the disabled.

LANDSCAPING

First impressions are lasting. The Town sign marks the end of a journey. Long grass at the base of signs would be best replaced with floral decoration. Sign on Cleggan-Clifden approach and the one opposite the Church partially obscured. Approaches were in need of trimming. How about a sign Welcome to Clifden - Capital of Connemara? The open area at Hillcrest needs attention.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is a confusion of advertising signs in the Square. Overall, the Town buildings looked attractive, neat and colourful. The business community are to be congratulated for their efforts. Attention could be given to the Fire Station and the Library. Also the house beside the Bank of Ireland (Four Seasons Snacks). Keep up the pressure on those responsible for derelict buildings. Overall the mixture of texture and colour in the Town is very attractive. Congratulations on the provision of new Car Parks. The derelict building on the Galway approach (formerly a hotel) is most untidy and requires immediate attention.

LITTER CONTROL

Clifden was crowded on the day of adjudication but there was some evidence of litter. Although it was early in the day, the litter bins outside J. Caseys was overflowing. No litter bin outside Burger Macs. It is essential that Fast Food premises have litter bins outside their premises. Have you provision for regular emptying of litter bins in the Town Centre?

TIDINESS

The approaches are important and need constant attention. So often your excellent stone walls are degraded by weeds and grass growing at the base. A prime example is GMT Ireland Ltd., as well as the Telecom Building. Flyposting should be removed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

It is encouraging to see home owners take such pride in their properties. With minor exceptions there is much to please the eye. Keep a watchful eye on communal open spaces and the provision of access for the disabled in the community.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Generally the roads are of a high standard but there is a need for weed control at the margins. The car park beside Leos is most attractive with its stone wall and railings. Back areas need constant attention. Keep up the pressure on the County Council to properly maintain all approach roads. There was

evidence of rubbish dumped at the back of the house on the Ballyconneely approach (facing the Estuary).

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Clifden is a delightful place and is a mecca for visitors. The evidence that a strong and capable Committee oversees the general presentation of the Town is obvious. Almost all traders deserve a mention for the care of their premises. There is still room for improvement, though. Premises like Clifden Motor Works, for example. Great to see such individual efforts by private residents. The stone wall restoration is very impressive.