

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ASKEATON**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	25
The Built Environment	40	24
Litter Control	40	25
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	175

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

From your detailed response to the questionnaire you would appear to have a good working relationship with the relevant local statutory bodies. For next year's competition it is important to have drawn up a 3/5 year plan of action for your town in order to give yourselves a clear direction for tackling the problem areas within the community.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The riverside area with a single swan floating majestically along was reasonably well presented. The adjudicator presumed that the plant life was necessary for the propagation of bass and salmon. Perhaps the best way of approaching this issue of wildlife/natural amenities would be to get in touch with local environmental groups and experts who could advise you and provide you with the data you need to tackle this broad-ranging issue. From there, you can then identify your local wildlife habitats and see what species of animals, birds, fish and plantlife these attract. Involve the local schoolchildren in this project-they will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the wealth of wildlife in their locality.

LANDSCAPING

The standard in this category was high. The grotto looked well, but the gates while reasonably fresh had some rust apparent. Some weeding is necessary to the gravelled forecourt area to the front. The planted rockery was neatly presented, but would perhaps benefit from a little more colour. The planted bed of marigolds and roses in front of the tennis courts was admired, although the open grassed space there was quite overgrown with weeds and littered. The timber gate leading to the swimming pool would benefit from a coat of preservative. The landscaped park area to the riverside looked very well with its thatched band-stand, while the new trees to the tennis courts /park area will be a great asset to the town in years to come. The planted area with its display of antique farm machinery opposite St. Mary's church looked very fetching, as did the attractive planting to St. Francis Avenue with its grotto and magnificent display of lupins. The planted bed to the forecourt area of the Church of Ireland looked magnificent with an array of colourful flowers including irises, harebells, geraniums, valerian, Japanese quince and pansies.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The public buildings of the town were, by and large, very well presented and fresh on Adjudication Day. The school was very fresh with a lovely rose bed in its grounds. The stone church, surrounded by an attractive stone wall, and its grounds looked very well if a bit bare. The Garda Station was neatly presented although the boundary wall could be white-washed before next year. The Health Centre would also benefit from a fresh coat of paint and its boundary wall was quite grubby. The Post Office looked quite fresh and most attractive. The railings and sign to the Church of Ireland could be freshly painted and the gable of the derelict building beside the flowerbed here (mentioned in the previous category) would benefit from a white-washing exercise. Although the building itself was reasonably fresh in a green with moss green trims, the forecourt area to the Tourist Information Office was quite untidy looking with some concrete kerbing and gravel lying about. There was quite a lot of unfortunate dereliction and neglect at The Quay on the opposite bank of the river to the tennis courts. Shops such as John Sheehan's and Kennedy's bar should be encouraged to replace their inappropriate plastic signage with more traditional timber ones. Ranihan's bar was missing an "a" to its sign. The Irish Permanent was very fresh, as was the Credit Union and the Bank of Ireland in a pale blue with darker blue trims. The town has a wealth of attractive traditional shopfronts such as T.S O Morain's and Delaney's-the latter would benefit from a fresh coat of paint. Another attractive traditional feature was the G.A.A. entrance area which would also benefit from a fresh coat of paint. The old mill/warehouse on The Quay is another fine piece of architectural heritage and would be well worth restoring.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control on the day was generally good, although some litter was apparent along Main Street and on William Street.

TIDINESS

The main problem in this category was dereliction-the empty derelict space beside Grainne's Hair Salon looks quite unsightly as does the derelict petrol station opposite the Tops of the Town. There are also quite a few derelict cottages on William Street. There is a large metal gate to a yard area on Main Street which looked very grubby. The outbuilding beside the Bank of Ireland should be white washed. The Aeroboard industrial buildings and gates by the quarry could be freshened up before next year.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of maintenance of residential properties was quite inconsistent. The cottages of St. Mary's Terrace are very quaint; some were very fresh but most of them badly required painting. Some of the houses by the G.A.A. grounds would also benefit from a fresh coat of paint, as would the boundary wall to a house beside the Garda Station. The house opposite the Credit Union with the colourful window boxes was greatly admired as was Church View Estate which looked truly magnificent.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The streets of the town were reasonably well presented on the day. The Foynes road was slightly overgrown on Adjudication Day, the speed limit sign was quite grubby. A bare patch of dead grass and weeds on the left hand side of the road before the church looked unfortunate. The Limerick road was quite overgrown with nettles etc. While the open space beside the Askeaton sign looked well with the stone wall backdrop to the trees, the grass had been cut but not yet removed. The mounded flowerbed of marigolds at the junction with the main road was admired but had yet to come into its full glory on Adjudication Day.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town of Askeaton has great potential to be a most attractive one, with its magnificent view to the castle ruins as you enter the town, and its enchanting winding Main Street. There are still issues to be dealt with, not least of all the problem of dereliction, to enable you to progress further in the competition.