

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **EASKEY**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12
Landscaping	40	25
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	23
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	181

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your detailed responses to the entry form and photographs submitted were helpful to the adjudicators. It seems that you are co-ordinating your efforts well and working with several organisations. However, you will need to develop a long-term plan for the unique aspects of the town, which takes into detailed account how the town can be improved. Your weekly lotto is a good way to gain funding and interest from the community, and signs were seen in the town advertising for the lotto.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is unfortunate that you have not included any projects under this category. Easkey would seem to be in an enviable position of possessing a variety of natural amenities and wildlife habitats - with both the Easkey River and the beautiful seashore which attract fishermen and surfers! You will need to develop an integrated plan for the town which emphasises the importance of this category to the town. Try to persuade owners of fields to develop hedgerows and maintain the fields at the rivers edge under the REPS scheme. The riverside park on Easkey River is in need of attention as it is important for fishing. Oil and rust were seen to be running into the river, causing pollution which was especially severe in the dry summer weather. Pools of polluted water were seen in the river bed. You will need to consult with the County Councils engineers and environment section about how the drainage can be remedied.

More tree-planting is needed on the coast road as it is very stark. The seafront edge along the coast road is rough and dangerous in parts with objects sticking up. Coastal shrubs could be planted along steeper edges of the coast. Rubble should be cleared and a car parking area could be created. The grass verge of the coast road should be mown up to the stone wall, and a hedgerow could be developed behind the wall. You should try to provide a seating area along the coast road to enjoy the view!

LANDSCAPING

Many more trees could be planted in the riverside park. The seats in the park should be re-painted at least, or possibly replaced with a better design. You should consider expanding the riverside walk to the other side of the bridge.

The planting throughout the town was well-maintained, and committee members were seen watering and planting on adjudication day - good work! Window-boxes throughout the town were well-maintained and greatly enhanced the appearance of the town. The planting opposite the Fishermans Weir and on the cemetery wall was well-kept. Trees in the car park would establish better if you created beds inside the boundary walls to give them proper rooting space. This would also mean that less watering would be required.

You should consider planting trees inside the boundary wall of the school grounds to create an edge and improve the view. Also, consider a wildlife garden at the back of the school with seaside plants.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Plastic signage in the town is a problem and should be replaced with more traditional signage, for example, at the chemists and the veterinary store. Signage at the Post Office is too large and there are too many signs here. Try to use a more traditional style and stick to one sign. Also, try to avoid so many signs and stickers in windows. Fishermans Weir pub looks very impressive, with planters, traditional signage, and matching litter bins! Try to avoid the neon signs. The Surfing Information Centre looked very well-presented. Rouses traditional shopfront was admired but it needs freshening up. The gable walls should be painted and more window-boxes could be added on the upper storey. OSullivans and Rouses would be contenders for awards if freshened up with paint. Brunos was being renovated on adjudication day, and we look forward to the improvements for next year.

Quite a few problem areas need to be addressed. The school is very drab and needs paint as does its boundary wall. The garda station was in a poor state and needs re-painting. The boundary wall of the old rectory needs to be painted. The derelict buildings in the triangle just past the post office should be cleaned up and possibly white-washed.

The Abbey in the centre of the town and the cemetery with its elaborate tombs is noted in the towns brochure but is in an awful state of neglect - with broken headstones and tombs, litter (especially beer bottles), vandalism, and the old churches completely overgrown. Major work is needed here still, and you will need to obtain help to develop a plan for this historic area. A good start would be to lock the gate at night and to monitor night-time drinking and vandalism in the cemetery.

LITTER CONTROL

Broken glass and litter was a serious problem in the grounds of the old Abbey and throughout the cemetery. Litter was a problem in the riverside park, probably because there aren't any bins provided. You should obtain sponsorship through local businesses to put in a few bins. The castle grounds and coast road were very clean and litter-free, despite the number of visitors on adjudication day.

TIDINESS

There are rusty re-inforcement bars sticking up along the footpath through the riverside park and broken glass. These are safety hazards which could be a liability in a public park. The sheds halfway down the coast road on the left side are very rusty and create a poor view to the coast. They also are visible from the riverside park and create a poor impression all around. Try to convince the owner to re-paint them a natural colour to blend in with the landscape.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the houses on Main Street look very well, with fresh paint and window-boxes. Some houses on the main street have roofs in bad condition or need re-painting. Houses on the Dromore Road were very well-kept, but a few boundary walls need repair or re-painting.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Dromore approach road was slightly weedy and would benefit from more trees planted here. The gate lodge on the Fortland Road would be lovely if it could be restored to its former glory. Many stone walls on this road are in need of repair. The road was very tidy otherwise, litter-free and weeded. Some dereliction is a problem on the Enniscrone Road. The banks and grass verges on this road were not maintained, and many boundary walls were falling down. Overall, this road needs serious attention from the committee.

You will need to have the road leading up to the riverside park re-surfaced, especially in front of the post office. This could be planned with the County Council engineers. Attention is needed to views of side yards and storage areas on the main street. Nicely-painted gates would screen these areas and could be colour-co-ordinated with shopfronts.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The maintenance and upkeep of the Town seems to be managed to a high standard. You need to concentrate your activities over the coming years on the development of the natural amenities of the Town. There have been great improvements over the past year and we look forward to more achievement next year.

