

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BLACKLION**  
County : **CAVAN**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 14-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	21	21
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	12	12
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	21
General Impression	10	6	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>162</b>

## **Blacklion, County Cavan**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your comprehensive responses to the questionnaire and a map which were very useful on adjudication day. Hopefully you will be in a position to formulate a more long term plan before long. It is important at this stage to develop a plan of campaign for the village in order to give yourselves a structured programme within which to work. This will help to develop the weak areas and further develop the strong points within the village. There is obviously an enthusiasm in the presentation of such aspects as landscaping and buildings. But the problem areas in the village are all too apparent and must be addressed even, as suggested by last year's adjudicator, by a smart coat of paint where required!

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Buildings within the town were generally well presented apart from the obvious dereliction and abandoned buildings. The Methodist church looked very fresh and its grounds looked smart. While the Health Centre was fine, its boundary wall should be painted before next year. The attractive display of petunias in the window boxes was admired. The smart stone AIB building looked very charming with flower filled metal bracket containers attached to the facade. Maguire's and Johnson's are both very attractive traditional shop fronts. There are several plastic curved canopies which should be replaced with more traditional fabric awnings. The shop beside Fitzpatrick's badly needed paint as did the Fire Brigade Post at the far end of the village. Johnsons looked very fresh as did the Bush Bar next door. The Garda Station could be freshened up before next year. The old stone Market House building next door at the junction of Main Street leading to the bridge is a fine building and hopefully will be restored to its former glory in time.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Incidental landscaped spaces along approach roads and throughout the village were admired and looked very well. The timber barrels throughout the village with their colourful displays looked very cheerful. The planted bed of roses on the road leading to the bridge to Belcoo was admired. The displays of flowers, including nasturtiums, dotted along the coping of the stone wall along Main Street with its grassy bank as backdrop were admired.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Blacklion is fortunate in this aspect of the competition in its position on Lough Macnean, with the magnificent backdrop of hills behind. In order to further develop this aspect of the competition get in touch with such national organisations as ENFO and Conservation Volunteers of Ireland. You could also get local experts involved in order to help you identify the wildlife habitats within your area and formulate a wildlife management plan.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Very little litter was evident on adjudication day, although the odd paper was in evidence along Main Street. Some of the litter bins looked like they were in need of a fresh coat of paint.

## **TIDINESS**

As mentioned in last year's adjudication report the main problem in this area, which you are well aware of, is the dereliction within the village, which detracts from the good impression created by the rest of the buildings within the town generally. The tin sheds either side of the town, also mentioned in last year's report, are still in evidence. If they are not going to be removed, then at least paint them in a traditional red or green which would give a splash of colour and create a better impression. Fly posting should be discouraged or at the very least posters taken down after the event has taken place. A poster was spotted advertising a circus which had taken place in Enniskillen in April!

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The individual houses within the village itself and along approach roads and the estates were reasonably well presented on the day. The houses in Marian Terrace looked fresh although the timber fence to the front needs re-whitewashing and the central portion of grass in the open space had not been cut - in sharp contrast to the grass either side which had! The houses to Riverview were also fresh and the open space was presented to a reasonable standard.

## **ROAD, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Along the Cavan Road a junction sign was quite grubby and flaky although the attractive yellow bog irises in the field to the left looked magnificent as did some attractive displays of roses overhanging the garden wall to the roadside. The Belcoo Road was quite overgrown at the bridge. The road to the far side of the village was also quite overgrown but was admired for its wonderful mature ash trees and evergreens and its marvellous display of wild roses and ferns. The speed limit sign on this side of the village was quite rusty and could be re-painted.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Blacklion is a unique village due to its historical significance as a post house on the Sligo / Enniskillen Road. It is culturally and geographically distinct in its cross-border relationship with Belcoo and has the benefit of being set against a magnificent backdrop of natural beauty on the lakeshore. It has all the ingredients necessary to do extremely well in the competition with some hard work and continued effort.