

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CARRIGAHOLT**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	25
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	22	24
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	17	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	167	165

Carrigaholt, Co. Clare.

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning completed entry form. The form does not mention if you are working to an agreed plan or not. However, you have identified many problem areas and these have been listed in previous reports. Many of the improvements required are well recognised and some are beyond the scope of a Tidy Towns Committee alone.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Again this year the church and school looked well. The school grounds were well presented, with freshly cut grass. The inside is neat and clean and well maintained throughout. The Colaiste has improved in presentation and buildings were well presented. Carmody and Fennells were well presented. In general shops are freshly painted and looked well on adjudication day. St. Marys Hall could be improved by painting and keeping the forecourt weed free.

LANDSCAPING

You have made many improvements in recent years and the many picnic seating areas are praiseworthy. The entrance from Kilkee has been trimmed and is an improvement on last year. The seating area with brown chippings near the square is very well kept. There is a great display of brightly coloured flowers at many commercial and private premises and they are all adding a welcome colour to the village. The square is well presented again this year and the efforts of previous years are bearing fruit. You should consider further landscaping at the Kilkee entrance as this is an area offering first impressions. Indeed, the whole village could become a blaze of colour for the summer months if the residents were encouraged to provide window boxes and hanging baskets in appropriate places - especially on west street, which has some very distinctive single storey houses.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have scope for earning extra marks in this section, in view of your coastal location. This might best be achieved in association with the I.W.C.

LITTER CONTROL

Adjudication was carried out during refuse collection day. On arriving in the village, one was met with gutters almost filled with litter extending from the West Street - Bridge Street cross almost to the bridge. Similarly the gutters at West Street along by the take-away were heavily littered. This contrasts sharply with previous years. A query to local people revealed that unlike previous years when the village was swept each working day it is now only swept by machine once a week. This is an issue which you will have to work hard at for next years competition.

TIDINESS

Your problem here relates to many small open spaces not being cared for, together with an inordinate number of derelict and unoccupied houses in and around the village. Your efforts in servicing much of the untidiness is acknowledged, but long-term your village will only reach its environmental potential when these problems are tackled. Perhaps if you contact Clare Co. Council, they might, in association with the locals, commission a C.A.A.S. report similar to Ennistymon and Ennis.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Some new houses have been erected since last year and most of the houses within the village core are well presented. The housing estate entrance on the Loop Head approach is very overgrown and it also needs an identity. You should make greater efforts to link this group of houses with the village proper. There is no progress on the suggestion to plant trees on West Street, which would further improve this area.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road surface is good throughout - too good for the many motorists ignoring the speed limit signs. The layout of the village is really excellent and provides you with many advantages in terms of maintenance. In general side entrances should be painted and rear entrances visible from the street should be kept clean and tidy. Your treatment of street furniture is good, with much of it freshly painted - this is most apparent in the village centre area. There is some evidence of abandoned machinery which should be removed. The old tyres, which once accommodated flower displays should be removed at the Loop Head housing estate entrance.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village looked well on a fine July day - apart from the large amount of litter, which might be a once off slip up, as it contrasts with litter control of previous years. Continue encouraging people to paint their premises as Carrigaholt is at its best when brightly painted.