

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **COROFIN**  
County : **CLARE**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	30
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	23	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>174</b>

## **Corofin, County Clare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for submitting your development plan for Corofin and the completed entry form. The plan is interesting and embraces a wide degree of improvements. Much of the work outlined is far beyond the scope of a Tidy Towns Committee alone and will require the co-operation of several agencies. You need to be careful in your endeavours that the village does not lose its rural character when you start to develop. You have a serious traffic problem which needs immediate attention. Even one side parking on the main street would be an improvement. The generous amount of attractive traditional shopfronts throughout the village should be well maintained.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Most public buildings were well presented and some have landscaped environs that further enhance the presentation. The school is well presented as are the heritage centre and genealogy centre. There is a semi-derelict boat near the old workhouse buildings that should be removed. The Self Catering Complex off the main street on the river bank is well presented and landscaped. You have a serious road surface problem and many efforts to landscape are spoiled by poor road surface. Road works were noticed in progress but extensive improvements are required.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Very little new landscaping efforts are in evidence and, more importantly, much of the excellent efforts of previous years are now in need of improved maintenance. The seating along the rough gravelled footpath on the Gort approach should be removed and the area grassed and landscaped. Such a development would very much enhance this approach. The colour created by window box tubs and hanging baskets is commendable. The landscaping treatment with seating opposite the Post Office and at the Grotto looked well again this year. However, the grass at both locations needed cutting. The Ennistymon approach is very poor and much overgrown - even at the Failte sign. Ideally the residents on the R.H.S. as you enter the village on this approach should keep the verges and hedgerow opposite their houses well trimmed and that could represent their contribution to Corofin Tidy Towns.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The area around the bridge is probably your strongest area for wild birds, but wildlife can also be promoted by planting appropriate species of shrubs and trees. The area around the bridge, where dumping occurred last year has been cleaned up - well done. Consider a wildlife school project in association with teachers in National School.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

This did not represent a major problem this year and litter was confined to small amounts of discarded crisp bags in the Main Street. Litter bins seem adequate in number and were well maintained. It is up to certain shopkeepers with potential for litter creation to provide their own litter bins inside or outside their premises.

## **TIDINESS**

Your problem here stems from poor road surface, unfinished developments and poorly maintained small open spaces. The building with the former mural is now badly in need of painting. Also no progress on removing the angling map which is there about twenty years now. No progress on the Golden Vale entrance. Two premises on the R.H.S. from Ennis approach are undergoing painting and will improve this entrance when complete.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The housing estate near the school is in need of improved presentation and needs an active group from the area to tackle the problems so obvious. On an individual basis houses are well presented and some excel with very attractive landscaped gardens. The Rent an Irish Cottage scheme is well maintained but the approach road is grubby. Like most villages and towns a good deal of new housing development is in progress and this presents an opportunity to enhance the area by finishing well with appropriate landscaping.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The road surface has already been referred to. Many side and back entrances are quite untidy and many lead to valuable commercial property or services, so it is imperative to keep such entrances in a well maintained state. Much of your signage is in need of painting, replacement, and repair. The sign for R.I.C. is broken and also the fingerpost sign at the bridge for the Heritage Centre. It is noticed that a new finger sign for the Clare Heritage Centre is in English only - there are now valuable marks available for bilingual signage.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The village was busy on adjudication day and the tourist impact is obviously significant. You now need to think and act seriously on environmental improvement generally, which will have beneficial long-term effects. Your plan, if implemented, will help in this respect but as a committee you will need to get the backing of the community to raise the standard of the whole village.