

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BLARNEY**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	30
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	21	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	14
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	10	11
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	18
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>164</b>

## **Blarney, Co. Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

'The Blarney Plan - a Village Strategy' has been read with much enthusiasm; the organisations involved, and the people of Blarney, are to be congratulated. The progress and implementation of the Plan will be observed with interest. In the meantime, the following remarks concern work achieved over the past year. The general co-operative effort continues to be impressive. Please provide an up-to-date map next year (the Railway Terminus as shown has long vanished!) and please mark the names of roads and residential estates and the locations of projects completed since the previous adjudication.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Most of the shopfronts in the village centre, including those mentioned on your entry form, as well as the Village Hotel, are well looked after. There is danger, however, of garishness in some over-large and obtrusive shop signage. The Churches, Schools and the Garda Station are well presented, as we have come to expect.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The grounds of the Woollen Mills, the Blarney Park Hotel, the Castle and Blarney Castle House, are very well maintained as usual, and looked most attractive at the time of adjudication in early July. Landscaping on the slopes of the Whitechurch road did not seem to have been well nurtured this year; there was considerable weed growth.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Clogheenmilton Nature Reserve is a most imaginative amenity; the viewing area, with its neat adjacent parking and information point, is most sensitively located so as not to intrude on the fen itself. The nearby Childrens WildLife Park is very much in the same spirit and should prove enjoyable and instructive to its young visitors (and to older, too); when the planting establishes itself it will also be visually attractive. The tree-planting at Scoil Iosagain is another most commendable scheme in this category.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

In spite of large numbers of visitors, litter control was good on adjudication day, except for a section of the lawn in the square, where there was a considerable amount.

### **TIDINESS**

The Ballyduff road, where walls are broken, where much weed was present on adjudication day and dumping still seems to take place, and the unkempt end of the by-pass above the R.C. Church, are the only seriously untidy areas in Blarney, and as

such they badly need improvement.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Mangerton Terrace and Marian Place looked well, with good green spaces at the latter. The estates to the east of the village centre looked very prosperous indeed, and those which are being developed on the road to Whitechurch are promising. Tree planting should be encouraged in the estates under construction. Several individual homes on the outskirts, and particularly on the Rathduff and Tower roads, have fine front gardens.

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

Road surfaces from Tower and from Cork are excellent. Renewal of the footpath on the east side of the Square, as stated on your entry form, could not be found. Control of kerbside weed was poor on the roads to the north of the village.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

A picturesque village which somewhat manages to survive the surge of visitors remarkably well. It is in the off-centre areas that improvements are needed, as noted above. The newly established natural amenities are immensely welcome.