

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CHURCHTOWN**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	25
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	20	18
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	10	11
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	22
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	163	160

Churchtown, Co Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

There are a number of very positive aspects to your approach. Examples include the work undertaken with the local school to create awareness of litter control and the encouragement of residents to maintain the appearance of their houses. The committee have identified a number of attainable goals for the community. It is important to set out such goals in a co-ordinated plan in order to reap success in the competition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

In general the buildings in the village are well presented. Businesses in the town are well maintained. However any future development should avoid plastic signs and the use of Irish should also be encouraged. Efforts have been made to improve the appearance of the building beside the community centre by boarding windows etc., This building could be further improved by boarding the upstairs windows in a similar fashion. Buildings which deserve special commendation include the church and the Padre Pio House. The wall in front of the school requires attention. A number of derelict houses take away from your efforts particularly those before the church.

LANDSCAPING

There were many positive areas in this category. The planting in the centre of the village triangle, along the wall after the church and the overall use of window boxes deserves praise. It is imperative to maintain the enthusiasm of house owners to look after their own displays and encourage others to participate.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The village is in a natural rural setting and it would be interesting to involve some aspect of wildlife in the development plans for the future. As mentioned previously, you are advised to make contact with a local wildlife expert for advice on wildlife habitats. Credit has been given for the preservation of natural amenities such as hedgerows around the village. However, it is important to strike a balance between preservation and development as a number of hedgerows were not trimmed. Preservation should not indicate neglect.

LITTER CONTROL

It is encouraging to note that there is good control of litter in the village. Nevertheless, a lot of litter had gathered around a discarded signpost in front of the building adjoining the community centre. Both the sign and the litter were there for some time. It is disappointing that such an eyesore exists, in view of the efforts made to provide bins and create awareness in local schools.

TIDINESS

The village triangle looked very tidy and areas such as the G.A.A. grounds, Padre Pio House and the church deserve praise. There are a number of areas and buildings in the village which detract from the committees efforts. These include the old creamery buildings and grounds and the above mentioned building adjoining the community centre. Any future development should include work in these areas.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

In general houses in the area are very well maintained with effective use of flowers. There were many good examples of residents who go to great lengths in the upkeep and maintenance of their homes. The presentation of the approach road and grounds of Donain House deserve special mention.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

More work should be carried out on the approach roads into the village. The village is fortunate to possess many fine old stone walls. More attention should be paid to this area. The road leaving the village, which passes O'Flahertys shop has great potential. Exposure of the wall, together with a general tidy up would enhance the appearance of the village. It was noted that the village required more directional signposts. However, the signpost in the village should overcome this problem.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It is apparent that a serious effort is being made in the village. There are a number of areas which take away from this such as the discarded town signpost and run down buildings. However, by developing a co-ordinated plan to counteract these problems, Churchtown will undoubtedly progress further in this competition. The committee is wished well in its continuing efforts.