

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLONAKILTY**
County : **CORK**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	41
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	25	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	244	234

Clonakilty, Co Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your's is a highly impressive Draft Development Plan. The following paragraphs will not reiterate remarks - mainly superlatives - of previous adjudicators (including this one) but will concentrate principally on new developments, though commenting on a few perennial questions where appropriate. Very encouraging to read that derelict sites have been boldly identified instead of leaving them as unmentionable. Splendid that areas outside the immediate urban (i.e. competition) area have been included, as these are essential to the urban understanding. Interesting to find certain problems noted by previous adjudicators given a place in the Plan. The maps provided have been most effective; all locations numbered or lettered were inspected.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Hospital, Convent, Community College and schools were well looked after. The Brewery site is remarkable; restoration has not been zealously academic - the project is full of vitality. Lowney's Garage is considerably improved. The new hotel on the Ardfield road respects the local building tradition reasonably well. The Model Railway Village fits unobtrusively into the terrain. Good to see that a section of platform has been retained at the real Railway Station - a plaque is deserved here. Much work-in-progress was seen, including reinstatement of the Emmet Hotel. The increase in PVC glazing bars on older buildings was unfavourably noted.

LANDSCAPING

Shrubberies and new tree-planting, particularly where backed by mature hardwoods, is a very pleasing feature especially on the outskirts. The planting alongside the inner ring road has matured to excellent effect over a very few years. Small areas of planting within the town and housing estates sound a jubilant note. Use of bright annuals certainly suits the exterior precincts of the Model Railway Village - this is mentioned because while, in general, there is a now trend towards more permanent plantings, annuals certainly have their place. There is a fine opportunity for imaginative landscaping at a new estate at the top of MacCurtain Hill.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The exhibit of local bird life at the Model Railway Village was much admired. It is good to read that hedgecutting has been changed to later in the year. Ducks were always a feature of the river - it is good to learn of their population increasing. The wildflower garden could not be found as marked on the map, and local people had not heard of it, but it is assumed that it is there, and the spirit is certainly right. Chateaulin Orchard is a charming urban oasis - an orchard not in name alone.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little disposable litter on adjudication day.

TIDINESS

Because of ongoing developmental work at a number of locations, there was a not unnatural degree of untidiness here and there - yet it was of the acceptable kind, because it is clear that there is an end in view. There was, however, what seemed to be an unnecessary amount of weeds, broken walls - general lack of concern - in the neighbourhood of the Enterprise Centre.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Older street residences continue to please, chiefly because of painting; householders should be asked to look carefully at gutters, stacks, etc. Ongoing housing development north of Wolfe Tone Street (Bealach an Bharrraigh, etc) continues to impress due to layout, scale, and use of strong colour, Other new estates in sympathy with the town tradition are now well established. Infill housing is admirable. A new estate at the top of MacCurtain Hill with stone boundary walls throughout was also admired.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

An enhanced sense of expectation is engendered by the excellent landscaping of the east and west approach roads; the landscaping on the latter was particularly admired for about two miles out from the town centre. It is good to hear that Astna Square is due for upgrading. Overhead wires, poles and out-of-scale lampstandards are still ubiquitous: the catch is that once one area is elegantly freed, the rest becomes more obvious. Maintenance of car parks is very good indeed. The back areas between MacCurtain Hill and Facksbridge have improved tremendously; it is hoped that this improvement will continue into the cul-de-sac near the Enterprise Centre. It is encouraging to read that traffic circulation is being studied; it is difficult to enjoy the town centre fully because of poor traffic management at present. It seems extraordinary that Pearse Street should have two-way traffic and kerbside parking!

GENERAL IMPRESSION

An ancient town of dignity and charm, in which these same elements are being nurtured in new areas in an imaginative and sympathetic way.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (7/8/97)

The town of Clonakilty created a good impression on an August second adjudication day. The approach roads as noted by the first adjudicator are an attractive means of entering the town. These are well maintained and beautifully landscaped with an abundance of mature planting. The Kinsale Road in particular was admired for its cheerful welcome signs and attractive display of antique agricultural machinery. A note of warning would be to be discourage fly posting and hoardings both of which were apparent on the day and created an untidy and messy appearance. Buildings generally throughout the town looked neat, fresh and colourful with an abundance of overflowing hanging baskets on stands and to shop fronts and colourful window boxes. Those to MacEoin's Pub were particularly admired for their overflowing displays of petunias. However, the

plastic beer signs should be removed. Signage throughout the town generally was good, most of the inappropriate plastic signs have been replaced with more traditional timber ones. However, one or two premises still have plastic advertising signs. An out-building beside the pottery and the adjacent building with a Cork County Council sign badly needed freshening up and Harte's opposite the catholic church sported a grubby gable. Gable walls should not be neglected when considering presentation generally as these step up and down the streets of the town and are quite apparent to the visitor passing through.