

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DURRUS VILLAGE**
County : **CORK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	26
The Built Environment	40	24	22
Landscaping	40	19	18
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	26	23
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	19
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	168	157

Durrus, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The support provided by the County Council and the FAS Youth Employment Scheme is impressive. As suggested by last years adjudicator, you might consider a 3 to 5 year Development Plan, identifying key projects and scheduling improvements gradually over the period chosen; the benefits of such long-term planning are now beginning to show in a remarkable way in other centres, with a complementary rise in standards. Thank you for your useful map; in future years please mark the location of any recently completed projects which require special attention and any buildings erected since the map was published - for example, the Garda station is not shown.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The chief buildings of architectural interest are St Jamess Church with its fine tower and charming situation, the Roman Catholic Church with its trim lawns, and the curious village-centre building with its stone arch which simply needs whitewashing to make an attractive contribution. The schools are well looked after. The Carraig Bui building is a good example of a neatly presented factory premises. The shops and pubs are beautifully painted and were photographed for consideration in the shopfront awards; it is worth remarking that those without plastic or mass-produced signage, without a proliferation of window stickers, and without PVC glazing-bars on the upper floors, always have a much better chance.

LANDSCAPING

Flowers, whether in beds, hanging baskets or window boxes, enhanced the village tremendously. As last year, the landscaped areas opposite the Post Office and the Bantry/Timoleague junction, made a pleasant display. It was particularly good to see such well-nurtured roses. Seemingly random herbaceous planting along a hedgerow near St Jamess is just the kind of informal planting which makes the difference between the predictable and the imaginative. The heathers in St Jamess graveyard did not look particularly happy on adjudication day - is this the right kind of planting for this location?

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There did not seem to have been much progress under this heading. The neighbourhood abounds in wildlife habitats - the hedges, woods, lake, river, marsh, estuary and sea - and some recognition, such as an illustrated board showing native flora and fauna, would be a start, perhaps by St Jamess church, where so many of these elements meet in such a very picturesque way. There are helpful notes in the Tidy Towns booklet, and guidance sheets from Conservation Volunteers of Ireland.

LITTER CONTROL

There was a distinct improvement on last year. Congratulations.

TIDINESS

While it is difficult to strike a balance between reasonable village tidiness and rampant rural nature, the graveyard of the R.C. church did seem weighted a bit towards the latter on adjudication day this year. Kerbside weed was prevalent on the hill to Carrickboy school and in the factory car-park. The path to the Garda station was as weedy as last year - this is the kind of work which could be completed in less than an hour. In general, the village was tidier than last year, in that builders materials were not obtrusive.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

New and old houses were well looked after alike. The small terrace beside Carrickboy N.S. was very neat and well painted. Housing near the factory looked rather pallid compared to elsewhere. A fine terrace of old houses was noted on the Ahakista road.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Surfaces are good, and the verges of approach roads fairly well kept. A broken wall was noted by St James Church. A corrugated iron roof at the back of the Post Office gives a poor impression on arrival in the village from Ahakista. A post-and-wire fence needs replacement opposite the factory - a sturdy wooden fence would fit in better, or perhaps a native fuchsia hedge to hide the wire fence and provide an attractive outlook.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Durrus is improving every year, due to the hard work of the Association and the help of residents. There may seem to be too many points above to take in, but a well thought out Development Plan would help you to identify priorities and address them in an ordered way, rather than trying to improve everything all at once. A very pleasant village to visit; and a very friendly atmosphere which unfortunately cannot be assessed in a competition!