

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **INNISHANNON**
County : **CORK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	20
The Built Environment	40	24	20
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	11
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	11	7
Residential Areas	30	20	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	21
General Impression	10	8	5
TOTAL MARK	300	174	149

Innishannon, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Admirable initiatives have been taken since last year, not least the compilation of your 5 Year Development Plan. This identifies the chief work to be undertaken, but does not list which individual projects will be scheduled in each year, which should be the second most important element in such a plan. Your success with the County Council under the Village Improvement Scheme deserves the highest commendation, as does - on a more modest scale, but ultimately just as significantly - the support of the local community. It was also encouraging to note that some of the recommendations made by last years adjudicator were taken into consideration. This years adjudicator had not been in Innishannon for several years, and was very favourably impressed by the changes. Next year, please update your map - several areas are not shown (e.g. the housing estate opposite the Garda station, the Garda station itself, the Community Hall, etc.) and mark locations where you have undertaken specific works.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The most noteworthy improvement has been the rehabilitation of the beautifully proportioned 3 -arched Market House: this is a major achievement. The two Churches were very well maintained as usual. The Community Hall was looking very spruce. This adjudicator particularly admired the primrose and blue painting of the Garda Station, surely one of the most attractive in the county. The car-sales premises next to the arcading needs attention, especially as seen from the rear car park. The reinstatement of derelict buildings is noted below under Residential.

LANDSCAPING

Well kept grassed verges, and colourful flower planting throughout the village, give an air of good husbandry. The steeply landscaped bank adjacent to Hillside estate was in need of mowing on adjudication day. There is no large-scale landscaped area in Innishannon, but your Development Plan shows a riverside project for the future in what is clearly the ideal location; this is looked forward to.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The riverside amenity mentioned above would have an even greater implication under this heading. Riverine areas and woodlands are essential habitats, and Innishannon has these in abundance. The notes given in the Tidy Towns booklet, and the guidance sheets from Conservation Volunteers Ireland, should be helpful to your endeavours. For a start, illustrated boards identifying local flora and fauna could be erected.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little litter in the village centre on adjudication day, but there was considerable litter in the car park near the old tower.

TIDINESS

The virtual absence of wirescape has made an enormous improvement; heartiest congratulations to the Committee, Telecom and the ESB; this has been a very impressive development. There are still too many plastic and mass-produced signs for such an environmentally-conscious village. Kerbside weed was seen in the car park near the old tower.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The major improvement in this category is the ongoing restoration of the old terrace of dwelling-houses on the Cork road; already, by adjudication day, this site had been exceptionally well improved. Villages houses in general are very well looked after - a recently restored house in the centre was especially admired. The colourful estate between the arcading and the river needed some repainting of doorways on the car park side. Roselawn estate is promising, and will be much improved when trees grow up. Hillside is one of the best estates seen in the county this year; the variety of frontages - open, walled, hedged - creates a sense of order without uniformity.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The resurfacing of the main street and the repaving of sidewalks in stone blocks has been another huge improvement. Congratulations to the Local Authority and all others involved. The approach roads are well looked after; the one from Cork encourages speeding, so that it is dangerous to turn right out of the road from Hillside. The car parks are well surfaced, but the one at the R.C. Church is so expansive it gives a bleakness to the surroundings; a future development might be a double line of trees from the road to the west door. Another major development to be considered for your Plan would be the replacement of existing street lighting with lamp standards more appropriate to the scale of the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A naturally attractive village where rapid improvements, sympathetic to the environment, are being made.