

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **REENASCREENA**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 11-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21	20
The Built Environment	40	17	17
Landscaping	40	18	17
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	17	18
Tidiness	20	8	8
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	19
General Impression	10	5	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>133</b>

## **Reenascreena, Co. Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The reason for your Development Plan not being available is quite understandable - we will look forward to receiving it next year. In the meantime, after you have completed it, you should start putting its recommendations into action. You should maintain your relationship with the County Council, which will prove invaluable over the years. Have you considered a FAS Youth Employment Scheme? This can prove most beneficial to the community, and also to the young people who are given useful employment. You have not filled in the sections on the questionnaire about improvements made since last year to buildings, landscaping, amenities, etc., so it would be natural to suppose that nothing has been done; however, judging by the appearance of the village some work does appear to have been done. Please be sure that in future years you note everything, even if it may seem insignificant to you.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The School is well looked after, as is the Community Centre. The derelict house is certainly a problem; if the ownership is established and the property can be improved, it would be important to restore it to its original condition and not modernise it. Both the public houses are fine buildings, but their forecourts could have been tidied up. The Post Office was very well maintained.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Tubs and flowers were delightful. The area round the Chimney seemed to be as overgrown as last year; this is an interesting site and could be developed without a great deal of expense and effort. Roadside verges had been well trimmed in several places. The fuschia hedges were making a wonderful show on the approach roads - it is obviously a shrub which does well in this soil, and could be introduced to fill spaces in the village. Foxgloves were to be seen in all the hedgerows - they are easily transplanted and could form the basis of a wild garden, for example, at the Chimney. The more formal shrubberies at the school looked very good.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The remarks of last years adjudicator should be considered. There are agencies which can give guidance - for example, the notes supplied by Conservation Volunteers Ireland with the Tidy Towns booklet might be helpful.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

There were small pieces of litter here and there, and scraped plaster was littering one site. The village is not large, and it should be possible to encourage a greater sense of care.

### **TIDINESS**

There was very obvious weed growth in a number of places on adjudication day - one example, at the entrance to the Community

Centre, is the kind of job which would only take an hour or so to tackle by two or three willing members. There was a very weedy open space at the start of the Union Hall road, and weeds growing outside the Co-Op. A rusty corrugated iron shed - probably the one noted by last years adjudicator - was in evidence on the Leap road. Mown grass should be removed immediately after cutting, as it looks even more untidy than when growing.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There are a number of very well kept houses in and around the village.

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

Road surfaces are good. Comments made above about weeds and tidiness refer to some roadside verges. It is right not to be too enthusiastic about hedge-cutting and verge-trimming on the approach roads because of bird habitats and also, in the particular case of Reenascreena, the abundance of wild flowers.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The impression is of a reasonably good maintenance job having been done, and also of a village waiting to get to grips with this competition. Perhaps 1997 can be taken as a year for planning; when your 3 - Year Plan has been assembled, we will look forward to seeing the results of its first year of operation in 1998. Every good wish for that.