

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ROSSCARBERY**
County : **CORK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	27
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	21	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	183	180

Rosscarbery, Co Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The approach is not as impressive as in many comparable centres where 3-5 Year Development Plans are under way and standards are rising appreciably. This is a pity, for Rosscarbery has a great deal more going for it in terms of natural beauty and attractive townscape than some centres where greater enterprise is being shown. As mentioned by last years adjudicator, there is an absence of effective co-ordination. Your map is perfunctory - several roads and estates are not shown, nor are points where improvements have obviously been made. The filling in of entries for awards is haphazard - for example, Pilgrim Books, The Pharmacy and Hubbards Supermarket should not have been entered under Irish Language Shopfronts.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

St Fachtnas Cathedral is lovingly looked after; unique and underpublicised external and internal sculpture is superbly conserved; however, the gates still need repainting. The R.C. Church is also well maintained. The Garda Barracks is neatly presented. The Celtic Ross Hotel will look less bleak when the trees grow up. Among the business premises admired on adjudication day were the Carberry Arms with its fine floral display, the marbled lettering on Callans, and some of the shopfronts listed for consideration under award headings. (Older buildings with plastic or mass-produced projecting signs, or PVC windows on the upper floors are likely to be eliminated from consideration for awards at an early stage). The garage doors at Levis have been well painted since last year.

LANDSCAPING

Planting was in progress at the park surrounding the tennis courts, and the result will be looked forward to next year. The trees in the Square are well nurtured. There were many pleasant displays of flowers in windowboxes on public and private premises. Because of its historic interest and its superb location, the Graveyard might be taken in hand as a special project in your future planning; the wooden fencing and the landscaping on its eastern side are attractive, but generally it is badly overgrown. There is a good opportunity for landscaping at the new Celtic Ross Hotel, where young trees are already flourishing. There are a number of charming corners, such as at the Weather Vane garden.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Rosscarbery, with its superb mix of pastoral, woodland and estuarine elements, is the ideal centre for the identification and encouragement of wildlife habitats. There are notes on this subject in the Tidy Towns booklet, and also guidance sheets from Conservation Volunteers Ireland. It was pleasant to see the aquatic birds in the lagoon - which is a wonderful amenity,

LITTER CONTROL

There was no appreciable litter in the town centre - congratulations. Unfortunately quite an amount of disposable litter was present in the Graveyard on adjudication day.

TIDINESS

The untidy state of the Graveyard has already been referred to: there is a difficult task here, but no more difficult than those which have been overcome elsewhere. As last year, kerbside weed was prevalent on the road to the east of the lagoon, on the edge of the tennis courts, in the car park at the R.C. Church at the side of Ardagh National School, and on the road leading to the hilltop housing estate. At least two rusty corrugated-iron structures near this church need attention. The post and wire fence on the corner opposite the tennis courts is unsightly.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Older town houses and terraces are splendidly presented, most of them in the strong colours characteristic of West Cork. The colour scheme at St Fachtnas terrace is sensational. Newer houses, many with pleasant front gardens, are also attractively presented. The Celtic Cottage precinct is neat, and the hilltop estate benefits from its superb view and some imaginative tree-planting. A look-out point might be established here.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Paving and street furniture at the Square is well maintained. Internal signposting is good. Most entries and lanes are reasonably well kept, and the one opposite Levis Garage has been greatly improved. Road surfaces on the two steep hills to the west of the town are very poor. Damaged low stone walls near the R.C. Church, mentioned last year, still need repair: but stone walls in general are first class, whether old or new, and these comprise one of the best elements of the entire townscape.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Rosscarbery is one of the most attractively situated and historically significant small towns in the country. A fine effort has been put into the improvement of details, but greater co-ordination is needed.