

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CALTRA**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-97

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1997 | Mark Awarded 1996 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 23 | 22 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 27 | 26 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 29 | 28 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 11 | 11 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 30 | 28 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 15 | 14 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 21 | 20 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 28 | 28 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 191 | 184 |

Caltra, Co. Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for completing the entry form and also for a copy of your work programme covering the next three years. You have adopted realistic objectives. A limited number of targets which are achievable each year is always more likely to yield results. It is very important that you work closely with the relevant bodies such as the county council, FAS, Telecom, ESB etc. You have maintained the high standard of presentation which you achieved last year and your extra marks are richly deserved.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

A very good effort made here by the business community. Keary's Lounge, Madden's Lounge, Caltra Inn and the Post Office are all good examples. The Church is well maintained as are the school and the Health Centre.

LANDSCAPING

The tree planting throughout is very tastefully done. Trees are the most important plants in the urban landscape. The siting of ornamental trees in towns and villages is a key aspect. Each tree or group of trees should have a purpose. Relatively few towns and villages have enough trees. Great care must be taken when embarking on new planting. It would appear that you have this very much under control. The flower beds, hanging baskets and window boxes throughout Caltra are excellent. They really enhance an area and present the village to a very high standard. Maintaining these flower beds is very important. The village looks colourful, bright and cheerful and is a lovely place to visit.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You state in the entry form that there is no wildlife in Caltra. As last year's adjudicator pointed out to you, you should seek professional advice to help you to identify the wildlife in your area. Many wildlife habitats adjoin or are encapsulated within towns or villages, in areas such as woodlands, hedgerows and grass verges along approach roads. Identify the wildlife habitats of your catchment area and see what species of animals and birds these attract. You will be delighted at discovering the number and extent of these habitats. As suggested to you last year, perhaps this could be undertaken as a special project by the school children with the assistance of their teachers.

LITTER CONTROL

An excellent effort made under this category. You are a fine example of what can be achieved with everybody pulling together. The fact that you went to the trouble to erect signs "no litter please" shows how strongly you feel about protecting the environment and also to make the place you live in more acceptable. However, the litter bin at the Church should be replaced.

TIDINESS

Caltra is presented in a neat and tidy way. The Grotto and the restoration of the pump are fine examples. It is so important that weed control at kerbs and at the base of buildings is tackled.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The house next to Keary's Lounge deserves special mention. The boundary walls of the big pink house could do with a fresh coat of paint. Generally the houses especially on the approach roads are all presented to a very good standard. Great pride is taken in the presentation of private houses and especially beautiful gardens.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Local Authority is doing a good job with the appearance of the approach roads. The grass verges are neat and trim. The bilingual signs and the stone flower beds look lovely. The stone walls throughout the village look great. The GAA pitch and walls are very well maintained. Also the playground area is a good amenity. The tasteful way you have presented the derelict shed on the approach to Caltra from Ahascragh is excellent.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

I enjoyed my visit to your lovely village. You are making good progress each year, but you must continue to maintain these high standards. Keep working together for the betterment of your area. You are doing a great job and you can be justly proud of your achievements. Keep up the good work and continued success for the future.