

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **ASKEATON**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	24
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>175</b>

## **Askeaton Co. Limerick**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your extremely comprehensive questionnaire which was accompanied by an excellent 3/5 year action plan and town map. The plan which is very practical in its content outlines the linkage that exists between the committee, all sections of the local community and the various public sector bodies. This approach is bound to have the desired effect in years to come and no doubt the Town of Askeaton and environs will benefit immensely.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

As rightly identified in your work plan, Askeaton is a medieval village with a rich history dating back to the 12th century, containing the finest example of a 14th century Franciscan Abbey as well as Desmond Castle, one of the many castles of the McGerailt Clan. It also possesses numerous other buildings of later vintage which indicate Askeaton's history as was a thriving commercial centre. The standard of presentation of buildings and streetscapes under this category was very good. Askeaton has undergone a mini-transformation in the last number of years. It would be remiss of me not to mention the ongoing Urban/Village Renewal Programme under the auspices of Limerick County Council which has certainly improved the main focal point of the town. Public, commercial and private buildings in general were presented to a very high standard and these are some that that appealed to this adjudicator; Cois Sionna Credit Union on Church Street, Mary's Shop on the corner of the Square and Church Street and The Bank Of Ireland. Both schools were well presented as was the Garda Station with its boundary wall painted. The R C church and grounds were clean if a little bit bare; some judicious planting is needed to soften the look. The Church Of Ireland is a very impressive building and work was in progress to ensure that it is preserved as such. The workplan identifies and outlines plans to tackle dereliction and unfortunately there is still an unacceptable level of this in Askeaton. Again it is unnecessary to mention specifics as these have been highlighted in the workplan but it is important that areas like the Quay that have a number of derelict premises are worked upon soon.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Again, as was the case last year, the standard was very high and landscaping work was in progress on adjudication day (for a period, at least, until interrupted by a typical Irish summer shower which lasted over an hour! It was good to see that thought was given to the selection of suitable trees, shrubs and flowers; some nice examples were noticeable in many gardens in the environs of the town. The planted area at the base of wall of St. Mary's church coupled with that immediately across the street gave a vibrancy to Church Street. The work undertaken in this category at the entrance roads is to be welcomed. The provision of colour at accesses of the bypass give an inviting welcome to Askeaton.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The wildlife category is catered for comprehensively in the workplan. There is vast potential for greater nature conservation in the town and its environs. The measures to ensure growth of shrubs and plants that encourage wildlife coupled with the creation of wildlife stretches and the development of riverside walks is to be lauded. Askeaton has a long tradition of river fishing; it is important to use the knowledge of local Deel fishermen to help identify wildlife habitats

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The town was virtually litter free on adjudication day except for some wrappings swirling around Main Street. A few more rubbish bins were needed on Church Street.

## **TIDINESS**

The standard in this category was quite good. Once again the workplan identified tasks that lay ahead to ensure that this standard is maintained and improved upon. There was evidence of weeding at the boundary wall opposite St Francis Avenue, on the Rathkeale Road and in and around Pairc Na Gael. There were dead weeds on the Newbridge Road which needed to be cleaned up. Unfortunately, the Southern Chemicals building did not show much improvement on last year. The rebuilding of the stonewall on the way up to the Catholic Church should be added to the workplan. The adjudicator welcomed the move to ask local small builders to store materials out of sight; this is something that could be applied to all other centres.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Last year the adjudicator noted that the standard in this category was a little inconsistent. St Mary's Terrace was once again in excellent condition as was St Francis Avenue, with its Marian Shrine. Church View was also well presented with nice planting schemes on both sides of the street. Oliver Plunkett Rd was a little disappointing mainly because of a couple of overgrown gardens and an unsightly lot of pallets at one end house.

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

All approach roads were in the main well presented with a few blackspots. The Foynes entrance could do with a nice planting scheme and the grass margins tidied up. There also was a very untidy area of uncut grass with unsightly concrete post fence adjacent to the Church which does not enhance this entrance. The Newbridge Road entrance was a bit untidy with weeds visible at the base of the stone wall. The connecting road (Abbey) was not helped by an untidy area around the Golden Vale building.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Askeaton is certainly benefiting from the efforts of a hard working committee which has developed a good partnership approach with all sections of the local community and other public bodies. The submitted workplan is an excellent example of a practical

approach to addressing issues rather than some set of aspirations that might never be implemented. Keep up the good work.