

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **HOSPITAL**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 26-07-97

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1997 | Mark Awarded 1996 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 27 | 26 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 25 | 25 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 25 | 24 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 14 | 14 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 18 | 18 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 9 | 10 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 20 | 19 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 21 | 20 |
| General Impression | 10 | 6 | 6 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 165 | 162 |

Hospital , Co. Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed questionnaire and map of the town. Last year's report referred to the need for a workplan to cover at least three years and I think that Hospital would benefit from same. Unfortunately, you are hampered by virtue of the fact that the committee is so small in number. At this stage I feel that you should make representations to other organisations in the town to become involved in the tidy towns effort.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The standard in this category was generally acceptable although there were a number of derelict buildings which seem to have been there for a number of years. It is important that the committee get the message of town improvement across to the owners of these buildings it is appreciated that this can be a very sensitive issue which needs careful handling. The new service station being built at the junction of the Limerick/Bruff road will be a positive addition to the town as will the new feature (I presume it's a fountain) around the same area. The Church and grounds were in good condition as was the car park except for those extremely awkward entrances. The Convent is an impressive building which was well presented but maybe it could be brightened up somewhat. There are fine examples of traditional shopfronts in Hospital but unfortunately not all were in anything near pristine condition. For instance there is an excellent example of a traditional shopfront at Walsh's in the main street which is very neglected. The AIB bank and Power's Solrs could do with refurbishing as they are not creating the maximum effect in their present state. The Seanachai, O'Brien's Pharmacy, the Credit Union and the Post Office looked very well as did the Ceard Scoil. The garage on the Emly Road adjacent to the library is bordering on becoming an eyesore; indeed, there are a number of premises on this road which are not up to an acceptable standard of presentation.

LANDSCAPING

As in the last number of years a lot of effort has gone into this category and the fruits of this can be seen especially on the outskirts of the town. The Limerick entrance has some nice planting arrangements and looks inviting; the effort of individual businesses and private residents is to be commended. The Town needs to have more spread of landscaping as you approach from other routes especially from Emly which is not a very inviting entrance at present principally because of too much untidiness. The Committee should make further approaches to Limerick County Council to see if they can help out with a landscaping plan for the Town.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Like other centres there is potential for greater nature

conservation in Hospital. This is where the committee could enlist the help of a local conservationist to initiate a programme that would involve children from the schools, both primary and post primary. The identification of habitats of various forms of wildlife in and around the area should be made the primary objective of any proposed project. Then, one can work from there.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control was acceptable but could be improved upon. The main street was rather messy with wrappers and some cans visible. This adjudicator felt the need for a few more rubbish bins as those that were in use were packed to capacity. The importance of educating residents of any town in the art of litter control cannot be stressed enough; it is the one sector that most places fall down on.

TIDINESS

This a sector that Hospital needs to improve on if it is to make progress in future competitions. I can appreciate that a small committee has limited time on its hands to tackle all issues. Also I have not forgotten that committees are voluntary bodies. Tidiness covers a number of things such as weed control and unsightly back areas that are not properly screened. Unfortunately, there is too much evidence of untidiness around the town and I will refrain from being overly specific as I do not want to discourage a hard working committee. Suffice to say that greater effort on the part of the owners of messy back areas to clean up their premises would help enormously.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of presentation in this category was very good on adjudication day. The houses on both sides as you enter from Knocklong were kept in good condition and the residents are to be commended, as are those on the Bruff Road. Both Galtee View and Galtee Drive were presented well with green areas cut and clean. There is a derelict bus visible from the back of these estates; this needs to be either removed or camouflaged. St John's Terrace which is an established row of townhouses was in superb condition

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There was a little inconsistency in this category. The approach roads from Knocklong and Limerick were very acceptable with verges cut back. The Bruff Road was a little tatty, the area around the soccer pitch needs to be cut back and tidied. Road signs on this road were grubby and need to be painted. The Emly and Kiltelly Roads were a mixture of good and bad too many untidy back areas on one and uncut verges on the other. Weed control needs to be more effective on both these entrances. The Old Knockaney Road was quite good except for a slight contradiction in that on one side of the road there was a newly constructed wall and pathway and on the other a broken down stone wall.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Hospital has a lot of positives in its favour but unfortunately there

are far too many negatives which take away from the immense work that the committee is doing. It will be necessary to invite more members on board, perhaps through the establishment of sub-committees. This is the only way forward and if one examines the success of other towns/villages it is noticeable that committees embrace all sectors of the community. Hospital has the potential to do well but a committee of four, no matter how committed, can only achieve so much.