

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BLACKROCK-LOUTH**
County : **LOUTH**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	26
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	22	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	21
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	175	170

Blackrock, County Louth

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The programme for developments may need to be a little more specific. Perhaps by picking out a few items each year, expand these to set out all the steps needed to achieve the objectives and then set about the process. Reviews of the development plan can be undertaken as time passes to assess progress and changing priorities. Car parking will have to be included in future planning as this can dominate the village. Are there ways that car parking could be off street? Cars present such clutter, congestion, fumes and danger.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Painting buildings in seaside places presents difficulties due to the salt air. The buildings are well presented along the seafront. The Moby Dick and the gates, Clermont Arms and adjoining Pharmacy look very attractive. Plant containers on many buildings are commendable. The car park by the "Brand" is nicely laid out.

LANDSCAPING

The tree planting in the carpark unfortunately has failed and will need replacing. While it is difficult to establish trees in this environment it is not impossible. Sycamore trees and some Pines (*Pinus insignis*) are most likely to succeed. Shrubs of *Olearia*, *Escallonia*, *Hebe* and *Phormium tenax* are likely to do well in this situation. Look at the trees in the neighbourhood that have succeeded and plant these. Container planting makes the village look attractive during the summer.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

A seaside village has a great advantage when considering wildlife. The shoreline provides an interesting habitat and much should be made of this. Perhaps advice from local experts Care should be taken when planning to clear walls of natural vegetation. Often these are habitats for wild life and attractive in themselves. Having good communications with local organisations is useful.

LITTER CONTROL

Seaside locations present great difficulty on account of the influx of so many visitors on fine days and at weekends. Litter control is by no means a five day job and provision has to be made for all eventualities. One would have to ask are there sufficient control measures in place for a really hot summer Sunday ?

TIDINESS

The overall appearance of Blackrock at the time of judging was clean neat and well presented.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is a lovely approach to St. Furseys Terrace. Extra tree planting using Sycamore trees might be a nice gesture to the next

generation. Rock Court would also benefit from tree planting. The individual gardens greatly enhance all the estates and every effort should be made to raise the standard of all gardens. Similarly individual gardens in the other estates play a very important part in the presentation of their estates.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All village roads are well presented. The Dundalk approach is especially attractive, again individual gardens contribute to the overall appearance of all approach roads. Back areas can easily become neglected and a constant watch is needed.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression of Blackrock is of a very well cared for village. A village which has to cope with large a large influx of visitors on fine days.