

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CARLINGFORD**
County : **LOUTH**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	28	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	25	28
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	30
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	209	206

Carlingford, County Louth

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The map provided with the application form was most helpful at adjudication. A detailed planned approach should be developed to cover the next three to five years. This will help to focus on the priorities and can be reassessed each year as the years pass. There are many aspects to Carlingford and a most interesting setting provided by the sea shore and the background hills makes Carlingford an unique place to visit at any time.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The old and the new are brought together very well in this village. Combining the historic with the modern makes a village have a sense of living among the historic buildings and instils life everywhere. The Church and surrounding car parks are a lovely asset to the village. McGees Bistro is nicely tucked in. "Artistic Licence" has a pleasant treatment. All the historic buildings continue to be well presented. A little painting would be helpful at the Teac Cuirte. The new development at the green facing the sea - alcove with stone back wall will be a good addition. The John Haugh Studio entrance would benefit from a little tidy up. Efforts to have overhead wires removed would be a great help. The number of wires surrounding the premises " Chervys" is unbelievable. Consideration should also be given to excluding cars from the village centre. Even if no cars were permitted to park in the square on Sundays a much more pleasant atmosphere would pertain.

LANDSCAPING

The Church grounds are a great asset to the village. The planting includes lots of all year around interest and is an example of good shrub planting. The many containers throughout the village add a sparkle of colour. The planting at the D.Arcy McGee monument needs attention. Perhaps the use of this area prevents the survival of plantings. An alternative approach would be to use various stone and pebble features. Tree planting on the green and in the car park could be undertaken. Pines and Sycamores would be suitable choices. Group planting of small trees closely spaced would be more advisable than single trees. Looking at the mature trees in the Holy Trinity Heritage Centre proves that trees will grow in this environment. When these trees reach maturity - what will replace them? The many greens are well maintained.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Carlingford is rich in Natural amenities. The stream directly behind the market square is attractive. Maybe by making this appear more natural some plants could develop. Positioning stones and rocks with cascades would be an interesting project for this stream. The walk up the hill is very pleasant and the stream becomes more natural as you proceed up the hill. King Johns Castle is another interesting wildlife habitat. In cleaning paths and

walls it is important to leave some of the natural vegetation. The treatment of the railway bridge proves this. There are lovely plants, mosses and fern on this bridge that enhance its beauty. Over zealous scouring of stone walls, hedgerows and rock and streams is to be avoided.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is difficult in a busy village. Extra vigilance is needed where visitors are constantly passing. The litter control seems to have fallen short on the day of adjudication. Litter bins were overflowing at 11.00 am and the D'Arcy McGee monument was badly littered.

TIDINESS

Overall Carlingford is a very tidy village. Some new building developments taking place will always cause a little untidiness but this is only temporary.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residents of Carlingford take great care of their properties. St. Olivers Park in particular is very well presented and individual gardens enhance the overall appearance very much. The area close to the Priory is well enhanced by the garden on the corner.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads are well treated. Beautiful sea views are enhanced by the well kept margins of the roads. The entrance/exit under the railway bridge is very picturesque and the natural vegetation helps in this regard. It would be interesting to try using cobblestones as a surface on some of the narrow walkways in the village instead of tarmac.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Carlingford is a lovely place to visit with both seaside walks and hill walks. The historic nature of the buildings makes it a special place.