

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BLACKLION**
County : **CAVAN**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	21	21
Landscaping	40	23	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	15
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	10	11
Residential Areas	30	13	12
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	167	166

Blacklion, County Cavan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for completing the questionnaire and outlining your reason for not as yet having produced a 3/5 year plan. The adjudicator has noted same and believes that the sooner a plan is in place the more focused your committee will be in identifying a series of work programmes - some that can be carried on a voluntary basis and without involvement from the local authority. A map of Blacklion would have benefited the adjudicator - please give this matter attention when submitting next year's entry. Build on the enthusiasm of your committee and canvas the support of all community groups in the village. You can then set up sub-committees and allocate them specific tasks from your plan. Your strategy will then fall into focus and expedite progress.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The comments contained in last year's report still remain. "Buildings within the town were generally well presented apart from the obvious dereliction and abandoned buildings". The new filling station will enhance the streetscape when finished as will the many other buildings undergoing renewal. A.I.B. again looked well but the Garda Station was disappointing. The visitor centre is poorly presented in contrast to the Health Board premises which is brightly painted and looks good. The Market House is still an eyesore and has great potential for development. In planning for next year give priority to enhancing the main street by way of more flower tubs, window boxes, hanging baskets etc.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping and colourful planting adjacent to the bridge on the Belcoo Road was tastefully presented and a nice introduction to the village - well done to all concerned. This example should be followed in other areas of the village particularly on the Cavan/Sligo approaches. It is recommended by the adjudicator that consideration be given to the appropriate selection and setting of trees, shrubs and flowers for year round effect. Progress under this heading is slow but very positive.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Lough McNeen has tremendous potential as a wildlife sanctuary - you must develop this in consultation with ENFO (the Environmental Information Service) and Conservation Volunteers of Ireland. Further information in

this regard can be obtained from the Department of Environment and Local Government. You should also seek the advice and guidance of your local wildlife experts. The development and signposting of the town river walk is an excellent project - perhaps you could enlist the support of the schools in identifying wildlife habitats. McNear park was presented well except for graffiti in the toilet and a litter bin in need of repair.

LITTER CONTROL

Blacklion was relatively litter free on adjudication day - do monitor the presentation of litter bins on a regular basis. Your litter clean up programme is obviously proving successful. A good performance under this heading has been rewarded with an increase in marks - Well done.

TIDINESS

The tin sheds on either side of the town are still an eyesore, however, the adjudicator appreciates your efforts in this regard and wishes you well - it will take time but do persevere. Fly-posting was not a problem this year and the untidiness created by building works etc. is of a temporary nature and will right itself in due course.

Derelict buildings and open spaces remain problems under this heading.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The estates of Marian Terrace and River View were presented well - it is obvious that the residents have responded enthusiastically to the tidy towns effort. Some very attractive individual house and gardens were also noted. The many young trees planted are maturing nicely and will enhance River View. Do clean verges at entrance to Marian Terrace - it is unsightly and takes away from the good work already carried out by the residents.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads have improved this year. The adjudicator noted verges being trimmed on adjudication day. Some signposting needs re-painting or replacing - signposting is important to the visitor and should be legible at a distance. The bridge on the Belcoo Road was presented well this year with flower beds a feature. Seek the support of your local engineer in advancing the needs of Blacklion for improvements to footpaths, paving and street furniture.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Progress is steady and the need for an action plan which can be implemented on a co-ordinated basis is very

obvious. Continue to liaise with Cavan County Council regarding derelict sites - these unsightly buildings are seriously damaging the streetscape and losing you marks.