

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CALTRA**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-98

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1998 | Mark Awarded 1997 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 24 | 23 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 28 | 27 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 30 | 29 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 11 | 11 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 29 | 30 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 15 | 15 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 21 | 21 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 29 | 28 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 194 | 191 |

Caltra, County Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The work programme which you have set yourselves over a three-year period is progressing well. Thank you for the helpful map which identifies particular achievements.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The handsome Church would benefit from a freshening up with paint before too long. The business premises are well presented, as usual. The Burmah filling station is neatly turned out. Madden's, with its first class floral displays, would have a good chance of an award were it not for the mass-produced sign. The weighbridge restoration is an exceptionally worthwhile project, and its completion will be awaited with interest.

LANDSCAPING

Planting at the Grotto looked very well on adjudication day. The raised bedding is a specially attractive idea. Flowers in urns or tubs look well when grouped together, as at the village centre, but a single tub on a long stretch of roadway can look rather lost and its impact is diminished. Your tree-planting programme is admirable, and it is good to see how well trees planted in the recent past are coming along.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The comments of last year and the previous year's adjudicators remain appropriate. The school poster competition, as with similar initiatives in dozens of other villages, should help to encourage interest.

LITTER CONTROL

The anti-litter signs and the new bin were favourably noted. In spite of these, and your summer scheme for students, litter control did not seem to be as successful this year. There was appreciable disposable litter in the neighbourhood of the grotto, and also in front of the shops. Shopkeepers should have an important role in this matter.

TIDINESS

Aside from litter, Caltra is a tidy village. It was good to see how well kept is the forecourt of the GAA Park, and the neat verges along approach roads. There was very little kerbside weed anywhere.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As mentioned last year, a number of houses are really beautifully kept. The creeper-covered cottage on the left beyond the Church particularly appealed to this adjudicator. The estate of single-storey houses (not marked on the map) with pleasant front gardens, near the Grotto, looked very well on adjudication day.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces are good. The neat verges have already been mentioned. The stone walls are excellent - new wall building was very favourably noted indeed. Some directional signs need cleaning or repainting. The long and rather cheerless wall opposite the Church could be enhanced in some way - planting here and there with creepers might be more effective and less expensive in the long term than painting or whitewashing.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A pleasant village where a sense of care and good husbandry is very evident. It is good that you are undertaking the various improvements on a phased basis, and not trying to do everything at once. Congratulations on the achievements to date.