

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLARENBRIDGE**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	--
The Built Environment	40	26	--
Landscaping	40	28	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	--
Litter Control	40	29	--
Tidiness	20	12	--
Residential Areas	30	18	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	--
General Impression	10	7	--
TOTAL MARK	300	177	--

CLARENBRIDGE, CO GALWAY

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Most towns and villages have now submitted three or five year Development Pan which they find most helpful in identifying their own priorities and in organising their work gradually over the period of years chosen. It is suggested that you do the same. In the meantime, your answers to the questionnaire have been most helpful, as has your map.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The remarkable Church is beautifully maintained. The restoration of the stone Community Hall was admired. The Hotel is extremely well presented, as are the business premises. The signwriting on Paddy Burke's is first class. None of the shopfronts, however, are of the exceptionally high standard of design, workmanship and maintenance required for an award in this category. When nominating shopfronts please be sure that the entire building - stacks, roof, gables, gutters and chutes, upper storeys - are of as high a standard as the street-level fascia, and be sure that there are no mass-produced signs.

LANDSCAPING

The fine mature timber greatly enhances the village centre. Landscaping at the triangle is good, but weeds were growing at the paved area on adjudication day. The riverside landscaping at Burke's is most attractive. Planting at the housing estate is variable - excellent in one or two places but not carried through; this is something which might be tackled for next year. It is unusual to see so many roses - this is a choice which could be followed to advantage in other villages. Your tree planting programme was also very favourably noted.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Because of its riverine and pastoral situation, Clarenbridge must be ideal for a number of habitats. The presence of swans, and your notes about the bat roosts, support the assertion in a meaningful way. You might suggest a project for schoolgoers to identify all the local flora and fauna; the fruits of such an initiative might result in an illustrated board in a prominent position.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little litter in Clarenbridge on adjudication day. Your anti-litter programme seems to be working well.

TIDINESS

The proliferation of TV aerials, and the wirescapes, are detrimental to the tidiness this village. The ducting of wires, removal of poles, and erection of more attractive lighting standards, has resulted in immeasurable improvements to the streetscape of other centres; this is another item for your long-term planning. There was very little kerbside weed, except where noted under "Residential" below.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

All of Clarenbridge is residential. Street houses are in general very nicely kept. The terrace of pleasing domestic scale on the Oranmore side of the triangle is very attractive indeed, as are houses in the bye-road leading away from the triangle. PVC glazing bars should be discouraged when windows are being replaced on older houses. Fine thatching added charm to the start of the coast road. The estate near the GAA park is well kept except for considerable kerbside weed - it would take only five minutes work by each householder every couple of weeks to keep this area tidy . Completion of other housing schemes is looked forward to - developers should be encouraged to plant trees.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Surfaces are good. The best approach road is the one from the coast, where well mown verges, young trees and fine walls make a most picturesque introduction to the village. New wall building was favourably noted. The principal problem is traffic. It is not possible to enjoy the charms of Clarenbridge to the full with the constant roar on the main road. In the absence of a bypass, pedestrian lights are essential, and other traffic-calming measures. During the time the adjudicator was present, many fines for speeding could have been collected.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A very pleasant village, carefully looked after, with new developments tastefully integrated. The traffic problem needs to be urgently addressed.