

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLEGGAN**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	--
The Built Environment	40	23	--
Landscaping	40	23	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	--
Litter Control	40	20	--
Tidiness	20	10	--
Residential Areas	30	19	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	--
General Impression	10	5	--
TOTAL MARK	300	161	--

Cleggan, County Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is not absolutely necessary to prepare a three to five year Development Plan, but committees in other centres have found this very valuable in identifying priorities and listing projects to be undertaken gradually over the period. Next year, please supply a map in the space provided, marking sites where improvements have taken place over the previous twelve months - we are not likely to miss any, but one wishes to be certain. Thank you for your answers to the questionnaire - it is good to read of the co-operative effort between yourselves and other bodies.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Continuing improvements to the pier have been favourably noted - this facility is the heart of Cleggan. Improvement of the Development Information Office is greatly welcomed. The Riding Centre is well presented. Among the well-kept business premises which caught the attention on adjudication day were the Pier Bar, King's, Joyce's and Harbour House. The Post Office and its surrounds looked particularly neat, and could be taken as an example to others wishing to improve their properties.

LANDSCAPING

Incidental planting throughout the village is delightful, but unfortunately is counteracted to a significant extent by broken walls and untidy verges (see below). A concerted plan is needed for the whole village, rather than piecemeal development. The principal shrubbery and flowerbed at the centre of the village is splendid, but unfortunately on adjudication day it was fronted by kerbside weed: constant attention is essential.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You do not mention this category in your application form. Set between the ocean and a distinctive rural landscape, Cleggan is better placed than most centres for the study and encouragement of myriad forms of wild life. The comments of the 1996 adjudicator in this regard remain appropriate. A nominal mark will be given.

LITTER CONTROL

There was a scattering of disposable litter here and there on adjudication day. Three piles of rubbish which looked as if they had been there for some time were noticed near King's - there may be some reason for this, but one has to note what one sees.

TIDINESS

Cleggan has so much going for it in terms of a truly beautiful

situation, a natural charm, a busy tourist trade, that it is particularly depressing to have to point out how untidy the village has become. Broken walls here and there, kerbside weed almost everywhere, wirescapes, poor industrial husbandry. An untidy laneway near the Post Office needs attention. (Not taken into consideration because it is some miles from the village area but worth mentioning in this context is the exceptionally untidy signage for Cleggan in a field by the junction of the Clifden road).

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are several delightful and well-kept homes. Two fine stone-gabled houses, and others in the course of construction, were especially noted. Many painted frontages were bright and clean.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Because Cleggan is quite small, this category could be taken with 'Tidiness', above. Approach roads are not impressive - no doubt representations have already been made to the local authority. The success of the Inishbofin boat excursions undoubtedly contributes to the breaking down of verges and ditches through indiscriminate visitor car parking. Fines should be extracted daily for parking offenses. The clutter of cars detracts enormously from the charm of the village. As tourism is an economic staple, tourism interests should assist in repairing and then maintaining the infrastructure - it is probably unnecessary to mention this. The designated car park was full on adjudication day; it is not well maintained.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A superbly situated village, where the outstanding quality of the natural and man-made environment has been drastically eroded. The efforts of the Community Council to address this situation calls for sympathetic and practical support from residents and official bodies alike.