

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BLACKROCK-LOUTH**
County : **LOUTH**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	29
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	22	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	27	25
Tidiness	20	13	11
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	181	175

BLACKROCK, COUNTY LOUTH

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The map provided was helpful and the draft plan prepared by Ann O'Leary includes many interesting suggestions for the village. We will look forward to seeing which suggestions the committee decides to incorporate into their new plan and the development of these over the coming years. As previously noted, car parking is a major issue to be addressed as part of any future developments.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the main buildings along the seafront are attractively presented. The Neptune, Moby Dick and Gates Inn all looked very well, as did the Clermont Arms and Pharmacy next door. Some of the other buildings would benefit from a fresh coat of paint, perhaps in a co-ordinated scheme as suggested in the draft plan. The Brand Store and the Waterfront appeared to be closed down on the day of the visit, but hopefully will be rejuvenated in the near future.

LANDSCAPING

The trees and flower containers along the promenade are very attractive. The Brand store car park was very well maintained and nicely planted with shrubs. The rose bed added some nice colour, perhaps some further landscaping at the car park could be thought of here.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The seaside location offers a rich wildlife habitat and the whole of Dundalk Bay is an important ornithological area. Getting local environmental groups involved will help you to identify possible projects and will give advice on how to conserve this wonderful natural amenity. There are great opportunities to develop nature walks along the shore or to dedicate areas for bird watching.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was quite effective. However, the black wheelie bins along the promenade were very obvious. Could they be replaced with a less intrusive type of bin? A small amount of litter was seen on the beach as the afternoon crowds arrived to enjoy the sun. Vigilance in this area is needed at all times.

TIDINESS

Blackrock in general has a tidy appearance. The footpaths and along the promenade were particularly clean and well swept. However, some premises would benefit from painting and the removal of plastic signage, which detracts a little from the overall

appearance of the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Beech Park, Rock Court and St. Furseys Terrace are all very well presented, with gardens providing a lovely display of colour. Other residential properties around Blackrock are also maintained to a high standard with individual gardens adding greatly to the overall pleasant appearance.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All the approach roads into Blackrock are well tended. The road from Dundalk is particularly pleasant with attractive properties lining the route e.g. Rosehip Cottage as well as newer houses. The old stone walls along many of the back roads will be an attractive feature when re-furbished as planned.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Blackrock is a pleasant seaside village and one where the community is working hard to maintain it's well kept appearance, despite the threat from crowds and litter on fine summer days.