

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CARRIGAHOLT**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	26
The Built Environment	40	24	23
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	23	22
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	174	170

Carrigaholt, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Carrigaholt is welcome to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition. The first glimpse of the village is enticing with its castle, harbour and beach. One is also pleasantly surprised by the small bridge and the streetscape of the village beyond. The presence of the derelict cottage at the bridge detracts a little from this otherwise very pleasant experience. The overall appearance of Carrigaholt is one of tidiness. Can something be done to tidy the derelict cottage mentioned above as an interim measure until redevelopment. The view of the coastline and the village from the hill above Church Street is another fine amenity for Carrigaholt and this approach road should be presented to a high standard at all times, this means that its green verges could be maintained neatly trimmed or a careful mowing regime adopted to encourage the growth of wildflowers. It is good to note that you have been in contact with the County Council regarding the derelict buildings and we look forward to action taken on these. Most residential properties in the village centre are presented to quite a good standard.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The village square at the Post Office has been beautifully landscaped and underground cables ducted. Lampstandards are attractive, some of the trees planted appear not to be taking very well whilst at least two others have. Don't give up on these as it is very important to have some indigenous trees in the village as well as the Cordylines and grasses. The terrace of single and two storey buildings at the West Street section of the village centre looked most attractive in their presentation. There is also a pleasant combination of building styles and materials used. The forecourt area of two single storey dwellings in the West Street need to be resurfaced or landscaped. The old building at which the bottle banks are located should at least be kept painted as an interim measure and kept as tidy as possible until redevelopment. This is important due to its prominent location in the heart of the village. St. Mary's Hall will soon need a fresh coat of paint as it is situated on a prominent site and is the first building on view on travelling back from the harbour and the castle. The Health Board premises had been freshly painted and looked good. The garda station looked well also.

LANDSCAPING

The small landscaped picnic site in the village centre at the bottom of the hill is most appealing and elegant in its simplicity. Container flower displays at the school and church looked colourful. The flower displays noted in your application form for the bridge were not in place on adjudication day,

however this is not a problem. Do not spend too much time on flower displays, concentrate more on permanent shrubs for seasonal interest and avoid the overuse of Cordylines and other non native species. Many of the Cordylines have become unattractive with their brown leaves which presumably should be removed. The green area between the bridge and the lock-up buildings at the crossroads should be kept better.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The verges along the road to the castle might also be managed for a seasonal display of local wildflowers (Iris, Ferns and Montebretia have been noted). The area down around the castle and the harbour could be better presented, particularly as this area is promoted as part of the Dolphin Watch experience.

TIDINESS

A mound of rubble or slate in the village square beyond the Post Office should be removed. Do keep a check for weed growth on the newly constructed car parking bays. Another derelict property and site at the West Street entrance to the village is a problem under this heading also. The carparking area down at the castle and harbour is very untidy with the open storage of building materials and other artifacts.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was good, both in the village centre and along the beach. Do keep us informed of your litter management techniques / strategies.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The green areas of the small residential development at the West Street end of the village were overgrown during adjudication. All boundary walls were somewhat weather-stained and in need of cleaning or painting. Otherwise a good performance under this heading.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Some signs need upgrading and service poles should eventually be removed and service cables ducted. Street furniture looked quite well. Weed growth along kerbs was quite extensive.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Carrigaholt is a scenic village which enjoys a beautiful natural setting with fine views. While a lot of work has been accomplished there is considerable room for developing the

potential of the village further.