

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CARRIGART**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	18
Litter Control	40	23	22
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	221	211

Carrigart, County Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The work programme for 1999 is most impressive, and it was good to see how much had been achieved on adjudication day in mid-June. The very substantial increase in marking is due to the imaginative initiatives of the Development Association and to the very real progress under the heading of Wildlife and Natural Amenities. Your documentation is most interesting and useful, but please do not feel that you need to include lists of expenses, attendances at meetings, etc. Your sketch plan is, as always, a great help.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The three buildings of greatest architectural importance, the churches, are as usual very well maintained, and their grounds are well nurtured. This adjudicator had not seen the memorial cross since its reinstatement - it is an unusual and possibly unique example of the neo-Celtic style by Irish sculptors and makes a wonderful focal point. The school and Garda barracks are well presented. The hotel makes a pleasing statement on its prominent site. Shopfronts are well kept, but there are still too many plastic and mass-produced signs - there is nothing to prove that this characterless kind of signage attracts more business.

LANDSCAPING

Annual maintenance alone of the Strand Park takes an enormous amount of work and expense; it was looking superb on adjudication day. Congratulations to everyone concerned. Planting round the cross seems a bit timid by comparison - perhaps it should be re-thought. Floral displays throughout the village on public and private sites added to the visual enjoyment.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is wonderful that the strand and estuarine area adjacent to the Park is included in the remit of the Development Association. The mural depicting the bird life of the neighbourhood is first class, and must surely arouse enormous interest. All this area has been photographed, and will be entered for the appropriate awards. Very best wishes for the continuance of these projects.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control seemed to be slightly better than last year,

though there were cans and packets at the base of the cross on the morning of adjudication. It is disappointing for those who take the trouble to keep the village free of litter to find that others ignore their efforts. Under the recent legislation prosecutions can result from littering: the Gardai and Litter Wardens might be made aware of any known days or times when it generally occurs so as they can take action.

TIDINESS

The complete ducting of cables and removal of wires will make an enormous difference, as will the realignment of pavements, but these are expensive and long-term projects. The untidy 'backs' of houses giving onto the Park are now much fewer, but there are still some. Kerbside weed was not in evidence, nor was flyposting. Staining of stone and concrete from rusty ironwork, at the gate of the Church of Ireland and at the Cross, needs to be attended to, but this is a minor matter.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Older street houses and terraces are looked after extremely well. Individual homes in gardens are also maintained with pride. The estate on the Creeslough road is outside the judging area, but some of the houses are not well maintained, planting is fairly ineffective, and a poor impression is created as you approach Carrigart from this direction.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The 'backs' have been referred to above. Road surfaces and paving in the village area leave much to be desired. The car parks were well kept on adjudication day. Developmental work opposite the RC church will be keenly observed. The stone walls, and the new wall and gate pillars near the Church of Ireland are excellent.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Few visitors will be aware of the immense amount of work which goes towards making Carrigart such a delightful place - apart from its scenic beauty.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/08/99)

Carrigart is now making great strides forward. All those concerned are to be congratulated! On our second adjudication day litter was not a serious problem but it is still believed that the wide footpath zone is detrimentally cluttered with goods including gas cylinders. Several shabby buildings including the quite neglected one at the bottom of the street regrettably make a negative impact.

The Strand park and carpark were again well presented however. This adjudicator really admired the neat grass verges, hedges, stone walls and young trees on the approach roads.