

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CULDAFF**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	189	186

Culdaff, County Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Progress has been made over the past year under a number of headings, some more obvious than others. At the time of adjudication the village was undergoing two major developments - housing to the north of the river, and businesses near the centre: these can not be assessed until completed, and this is eagerly looked forward to, hopefully in 2000. Assuming that their promise is fulfilled, there should then be a more significant increase in marks. A walk through Culdaff is a real pleasure, there are so many points of interest packed into a very small area.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Improvement of the charming Church of Ireland church was favourably noted, and also painting of the Community Hall - the painting here should be extended to cover the stacks, however, and make a complete job of it. A poorly kept business premises in the village centre has been remarked on before - unfortunately, it is one which immediately catches the eye. The other businesses are well kept, and the refurbishments and developments between the green and the Moyville road will presumably be finished next year. The rehabilitation of the smithy is a worthy project.

LANDSCAPING

The green was looking very well on adjudication day. Annual maintenance is a formidable task and has been undertaken with great success. (This adjudicator had not seen the Macklin memorial before, and was much impressed.) Shrubs at the Church of Ireland, and plantings and window boxes throughout the village, are most attractive; the use of whitewashed masonry as a facility for planting is unusual and effective. Ardmore graveyard is kept in a dignified manner, and is full of atmosphere.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The whole neighbourhood provides a marvellous habitat for river, marine and land life. As suggested before, improved access to the river - apart from the two fine picnic areas - and information points, would increase public awareness and interest. The sports field near the beach is a fine amenity, well tended.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little disposable litter on adjudication day, except in the neighbourhood of the large housing estate. Congratulations to the students and FAS helpers involved.

TIDINESS

One or two buildings which are not as well kept as they should be, an unkempt site between the shops and the Malin road, and some kerbside weed, are fairly minor blemishes in a generally tidy village, though it would be preferable if these things were attended to.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Almost all of the village houses are very well looked after. The terrace of small houses alongside the Macklin memorial is particularly pleasing. The garden of a single house on the south side of Main Street gives a real 'lift' to the area. The new terraces under construction at the housing estate promise well. While the majority of the houses in the existing estate are well kept, there are several broken fences and poorly maintained boundaries. A circular flower bed was completely overgrown - half an hour of someone's time to dig and plant it, and no more than five minutes a week to keep it in order, is all that is wanted.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads are reasonably good. The car park at the beach, though of uneven surface, is kept clear of weed and litter. The new footpath from village to beach is a major improvement, and one which will surely be appreciated by local people and visitors alike. The presence of stone walls gives immense character, as mentioned many times before.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A village of real **charm**. One hopes that the important new developments will enhance it.