

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLIFDEN**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	31
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	21	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	10	7
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	21
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	175	175

Clifden, County Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Clifden is fortunate to have a dedicated and well directed tidy towns group. Its affinity with the tourism industry, the town's major employer, makes for a dynamic approach to managing the town's development for the future. The overall effort within tidy towns is framed by the wider considerations of the Clifden Regeneration Strategy which addresses roads and other infrastructural needs of the town.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Clifden is a colourful commercial town with an attractive range of well presented shop fronts. There are some dilapidated and open areas which need attention. It seems unfortunate that the new Railway Station development seems to turn its back on the town. It is an exciting development which whatever its architectural sympathies, represents a modern and vibrant aspect of community development. Both churches were clean and pleasant in presentation.

LANDSCAPING

The garden opposite the Bank of Ireland is attractive but on inspection day featured a bin full to overflowing on the pathway through its centre. There were a number of floral displays - on the right hand side of the Galway Road opposite the Railway Hotel, at the car park in front of the church beside the firestation. An opportunity is being lost to landscape the islands at the Galway and Ballyconneely junctions. At present these are unsightly with a proliferation of fingerpost signs .

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Clifden is literally surrounded by sea and inland waters. This makes for a unique ecological quality in which a wide range of flora and fauna can be observed and enjoyed.

LITTER CONTROL

There was little evidence of litter on inspection day. Despite comments made above under landscaping, which the adjudicator thinks was probably a prank, your litter control programme is working well. On inspection day a litter control agent was working his way along Main Street.

TIDINESS

There is a surprising amount of kerb weed on display. The entrance from both the Galway and Ballyconneely roads are particularly bad. There is some wirescape with heavy cables routed across all the major shopping streets. The general dust and debris associated with building or road works at the town square are causing tidiness difficulties.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residential properties in and around Clifden are generally well presented. A fairly high percentage are also providing B and B service. The new self catering houses/ apartments at the Railway Station were disappointing, and apart from limited landscaping, the overgrown frontage was unsightly.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Galway entrance to the town is not attractively presented and options such as the treatment of the road junction need to be addressed to take attention away from the unfortunate rear view of buildings along Bridge Street. The new trees at the Railway Hotel stretch of the road were noted. Work was in progress on resurfacing the Market Square.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

General impression is that Clifden is a fast developing town and is seeing some major investments, creating new structures and opportunities. Care needs to be taken to ensure that these structures become part of the town and not just servicing facilities for visitors. The committee is commended for its efforts in regard to Clifden Clean Up Week and their efforts in regard to the removal of overhead cables.