

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CARRIGALLEN**
County : **LEITRIM**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-06-1999

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1999 | Mark Awarded 1998 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 23 | 23 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 23 | 22 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 25 | 23 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 21 | 21 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 24 | 24 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 9 | 8 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 19 | 18 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 20 | 20 |
| General Impression | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 170 | 164 |

Carrigallen, County Leitrim

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Carrigallen must be one of the very few towns and villages which has not produced a development plan – such a plan can draw local attention wonderfully well to the work which needs to be done, and which can be spread systematically over a period of years according to necessity and to the resources available. This year's increase in marks only takes into account the work which has been completed over the last twelve months; it is somewhat frustrating to see a village with such natural charm and such real potential receiving a rather small increase, when with a comparatively little effort the figure could be much greater, and the position in the county very much higher.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The principal buildings are well looked after; though the RC Church and the National School could do with freshening up with paint; the Church is of very handsome traditional design and is worthy of the utmost care. The Church of Ireland is one of the best kept churches seen in any village this year. The Cornmill Theatre and the Garda Station are very well presented. Jet Wash is well looked after. Among the business premises admired this year were The Upper Cut, Harte's Hotel, Doonan's and Reilly's. The proposal for adapting the old Schoolhouse as a Heritage Centre is an excellent one – but entries for the Heritage Award cannot be considered until the work is completed.

LANDSCAPING

The lengthy landscaping, with its fine stone walls, leading the eye to the RC Church, has come along well indeed. The park, with its seating overlooking the lake, is the best kept amenity in the neighbourhood. Young trees are doing well in a number of places. The old timber is a real asset to the locality.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Lakeside, woodland and hedgerow are, as all are aware, important natural habitats. The entry form has been left blank on this item, this makes it difficult for the adjudicator to correctly judge this category. There are interesting and entertaining opportunities for school projects, identifying and listing animal, bird and plant species, and creating an exhibition of drawings.

LITTER CONTROL

Disposable litter was seen here and there, especially in the

car park opposite the Hotel.

TIDINESS

Several rusted corrugated iron roofs contribute to an untidy-looking townscape. One of the difficulties of judging is the way in which untidy spots stand side by side with very neat ones – an example is the site next to the Theatre; unfortunately, the untidy sites are the more eye-catching. There is an area between the cross roads and the Church of Ireland which requires attention. There was extensive weed growth in a number of prominent places. However, there did seem to be a marginal improvement on last year, and this is most welcome.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many of the older street houses are kept with great pride. Two fine and very different examples are the lemon-coloured house opposite the Hotel, and the restored detached Georgian house in the street leading to the Church of Ireland. A house with a fine stone wall and delightful garden at the Killeshandra/Arvagh intersection, and a group of houses with fine lawns and gardens above the Mohill road, give a first class impression as you enter Carrigallen from those respective directions. The principal housing estate is pleasant, though its approach from the main street is not impressive.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Roadworks on the Mohill Road, work on the car park on the Longford road, and poor surfaces generally, contrast with the excellent paving of the sidewalks. The fine street lamps have been praised before now; the telephone boxes were clean on adjudication day. As mentioned under Tidiness, there are several sites, which need attention – and the entrance to the housing estate is one of them. It should not take a great deal of initiative to have these improved; the sum of their detrimental visual effect is far greater than their actual incidence.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A beautifully situated village with some fine architectural features and a pleasant traditional streetscape, where impressive improvements are in hand but where the real potential has still to be reached.