

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ASKEATON**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	28
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	23	24
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	186	182

Askeaton, County Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The submission of the action plan that accompanied the entry form is excellent and reflects forward planning in your endeavours. You seem well aware of the medieval importance of the town and the many old and ancient buildings and you should build on your strengths in this area. The detailed map and keyed in developments were most helpful on adjudication day.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The public buildings were well presented again this year in particular the Credit Union and Coláiste Mhuire. The Coláiste needs a name identity, and this should be done for next year. The Library is really excellent and improves this approach to the Community Centre. You still have a great deal of plastic signs - which are now on the decline nationally and you should encourage shopkeepers and others to replace with the more popular and more acceptable traditional type.

LANDSCAPING

You have scored well in this section and the generous display of flowering shrubs at the lay-by junction on the Limerick approach is particularly attractive. You should endeavour to match this from the Foyne approach. The grass cutting throughout is good. However, in and about the town there is a great deal of high weed growth. Weeds should be sprayed in May and in particular weed growth in the town centre should be controlled. There are many small open spaces that offer ideal areas for extra landscaping and these should be tackled for future years.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES.

You are endowed with an attractive river that presents ideal opportunities for the provision of wildlife. However, wildlife extends to inland areas also and the many lay by-areas are suitable for wildlife also. The natural amenities along the river bank need improved presentation and you mention this in your plan. You should also consider the erection of a wildlife display .

LITTER CONTROL

You have a problem with litter control and you are not getting the co-operation you deserve. Even in the town centre an inordinate amount of litter was evident on adjudication day. Compounding the problem is large weed

growth along the walls that seem to hold the litter in place.

TIDINESS

The entrance to Pairc Na nGael is disappointing and reflects badly on the responsible organisation. Because of the plethora of derelict and unattended open spaces there is an air of untidiness - especially on many of the narrow side entrances to the town. There is also great contradiction with PVC doors and windows on thatched cottages. The main street is still your strongest and your efforts here are commendable.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is a welcome high standard of individual effort in many of the housing estates and this should be encouraged further. St. Frances Avenue has a great display of roses and the grotto is a welcome roadside development. If energy permits you should improve the facing of the grotto. The town has numerous ideal spaces for building of infill. This development would be much more acceptable than the ribbon development along approach roads. Long term planning should list the amount of derelict and unoccupied sites in the town that would be appropriate for residential building.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Because of the age profile of Askeaton's buildings there are many, indeed numerous, back and side entrances of immense interest. Some of these carry a medieval character with them and should be protected. The small narrow roads leading to the castle from several directions will play an important part in the town's development. The castle with its magnificent view from the bridge is without identity to the stranger or any information on access. Your outline plans for riverside development are welcome and will enhance in time. The large park near the swimming pool is very well presented and further development was observed by the Fás Scheme.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town has great potential to identify itself as one of the most important medieval towns in Ireland. However, you have much to do in terms of dereliction and the appropriate blending of the old with the new. The by-pass advantages are but in their infancy and you now have the opportunity to highlight and protect the ancient character of this historic town and turn it into a place of heritage importance. In doing this you need to keep pace with the commercial desirabilities of any developing community especially in terms of tourism development. Good luck for the future and keep your plan in view.