

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASTLECONNELL**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	209	207

Castleconnell, County Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed application form and detailed map which made it very easy to identify places in this beautiful and historic village forever synonymous with famed Ahane and Mick Mackey. Castleconnell has many fine features both natural and manmade. Its idyllic location on the banks of the Shannon makes it a haven of tranquillity; hopefully this will never change. The level of co-operation between the committee, local community groups and statutory bodies is to be admired. This village has benefited from this type of interaction judging by improvements over the last number of years.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As stated in last year's report the variety of architectural styles in the village is its strong point. Quite a lot of these buildings have retained their traditional features and I would hope that any future developments would be undertaken bearing this in mind. There is an onus on the part of both Local Authority Planners and private developers to ensure that Castleconnell will always be a place of tranquillity. On adjudication day most properties both commercial and private were presented to a very high standard. A number of buildings were in the process of being painted including the Tom Maher property alluded to in last year's report. The Worrals Inn, Shannon Inn and Tom Mahers deserve mention for the manner in which properties and adjacent back areas were kept. The impressive old world houses in the Tontines were in excellent condition although one or two gardens need to be tidied up. The magnificent private residences and gardens on the Spa Road were a credit to the owners. The Church, School and Parochial House were in very good condition. Credit is due to those with responsibility for maintaining same. The Castleconnell ruins and area around it were quite tidy also. A number of suggestions relative to this category were made in last year's report. It is important that the committee take cognisance of these and try over a period of time put them in place.

LANDSCAPING

There were very good examples of public and private landscaping arrangements. The rose display in the riverside carpark once again stood out for its colour and indeed quality of rose blooms.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

I was amazed that there was no reference to any wildlife

project in the wildlife category of the application form. Castleconnell is very much associated with angling on the Shannon, it also has so many natural habitats for all species of wildlife on the riverbank. As stated in last year's report Castleconnell has one of the richest wildlife areas in the country given its location. It would be a pity if something was not done about it. Where would one get such natural riverbanks, river islands and weirs? I would suggest that the committee involve the local schools to develop a wildlife programme over the next number of years.

LITTER CONTROL

The Village was virtually litter free on the day of adjudication. The provision of teams on a rota basis to control litter is very worthwhile, as the village can be very busy with day-trippers especially in the summer evenings and at weekends. Being part of Limerick County Council's Anti Litter Scheme is very important a number of businesses had anti-litter literature available on their premises. Keep up the good work

TIDINESS

The standard in this section was very good, as the village looked nice and tidy on the day. There were a few exceptions which need to be addressed. For instance there was weed growth visible at some kerbs and walls especially near Bradshaws premises and the base of the Church wall. The bins in the riverside carpark were still a little untidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

In general residential areas were well presented, as is the norm some people do not have the same pride of place as others so you end up with tatty boundary walls etc. "Meadowbrook" with its well-kept frontages is a nice and secluded area whose residents obviously have a sense of pride of place. Scanlon Park for the most part was in good condition. Some residences were not up to standard, hopefully these owners will follow the example of their neighbours.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREA

Last year's adjudicator made some very favourable comments on how the construction of new footpaths had impacted on the village. Having not visited Castleconnell for a few years I certainly was impressed with the improvements that had taken place. This year there was a major improvement in the entrances to the village. The road from Dalys Cross was in good condition. I would agree that it should be brightened up with flowerbeds. The O'Briensbridge Road needed the verges cut back a little simply because it is a narrow road. The signs were visible and clean with a few exceptions at the Stradbally end of the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It is nice to visit Castleconnell. It is always a Mecca for Sunday afternoon visitors during the summer. The committee are endeavouring to address problem areas and are actively trying to get all the community involved.