

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BELCARRA**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	17
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	238	234

Belcarra, County Mayo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Belcarra is welcome to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition. Congratulations on the support you get from both the villagers and from the community co-op. Your links with Mayo County Council, Fás, LEADER, Telecom Eireann and ESB together with the newly formed Tochar Valley Network, not to mention the local school, are reflected in the high standard of presentation of your beautiful village. Your ambitious plan for the restoration of the derelict "eviction" house at Elmhall is admirable and we wish you well, upon completion it will be considered for the Heritage Award. The committee is to be congratulated for their development plan for Belcarra which was a project of the Belcarra community. It is comprehensive and details not only the hopes and aspirations for the future but also current work in hand and work achieved to date. It makes for interesting reading, well done. Thank you for your completed application, it was very helpful and the before and after photographs are a really good idea.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The wall in the village centre at the top of the Balla road badly needed to be cleaned and / or whitewashed. The roadside boundary to the caravan park is most attractive, being made up of very large stones. The Post Office looks quite well, however its flower display to its roadside edge might be perked up a little. Most properties are presented to a high standard. Cunninghams is particularly worth a mention in this regard. Heneghan's has some fine traditional features which should be preserved upon refurbishment. The school is very well presented also, however some of its walls are just beginning to be a little weather stained and may need cleaning in the not too distant future. The church car park and grounds look exceptionally well.

LANDSCAPING

Grass verges on the approach and entrance from the Balla road were presented to the highest standard, well done.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Congratulations on your work under this heading. Not too many communities would like to encourage a bat population. It is good to note the involvement of both the local school and Foróige in the Bird Watch project. The butterfly garden must be very pleasant to experience. Your activities under this heading are most appropriate. The proposed footbridge across the river and the linking of the two sections of the village together to complete a circular walk from the village

centre via the heritage cottage and back to the village centre is ambitious and most worthwhile and we wish you good luck in your efforts to gain funding from LEADER and other agencies.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is quite good. Your daily litter pick up and additional litter bins appear to be successful. Remember that a good litter control strategy should cover the entire year and not just the summer months.

TIDINESS

Some outbuildings at the junction with the road for The Common together with a derelict building in the village centre could be cleaned or painted as an interim measure. Belcarra is, of course, a very tidy village as is evidenced in its marks in the Tidy Towns Competition to date. Good luck with your endeavours to get permission from the owners of derelict or unoccupied properties to tidy these.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The Ballyfarna residential development is well presented, especially its landscaped entrance point. Residential properties across from the basketball court are much admired for their elegant simplicity. The villagers are to be congratulated for the ten thousand pounds contribution towards the undergrounding of service cables and the removal of poles. Of course, Mayo County Council are to be acknowledged for the erection of new street lighting in the village and in The Common. Well done on your foresight in encouraging owners of new dwellings to retain the limestone wall along the roadside boundaries.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Stone walls are in an excellent state of repair throughout the village and on approach roads. Stone wall building appeared to be in progress during adjudication. Street furniture such as seating, lampstandards, and the water pump all look well.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Belcarra is a beautiful village and it is a pleasure to visit it at any time and for any reason.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (04/08/99)

The attractive village of Belcarra was admired on second adjudication day. The new signs and trees on the neatly cut grass verges looked quite magnificent – indeed landscaped areas throughout the village were admired. The Heritage

Cottage is quite quaint. There is quite a lot of construction work under way in the centre - do ensure that these maintain the village character. The community centre behind the grotto was quite stained with pink algae growth and the wall at the junction, mentioned by the first adjudicator, should be re-whitewashed before next year's competition. The cemetery appeared quite overgrown and the outbuildings further along will need repainting before next year's competition as indeed will the school. The magnificent grounds and limestone boundary wall to the latter however were greatly admired.