

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ENNISTYMON**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-06-1999

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1999 | Mark Awarded 1998 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 32 | 31 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 23 | 23 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 26 | 24 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 20 | 20 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 14 | 23 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 19 | 14 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 18 | 18 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 21 | 23 |
| General Impression | 10 | 5 | 6 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 178 | 182 |

Ennistymon, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ennistymon is welcome to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the completed questionnaire, your work programme and other notes. Ennistymon has some very fine assets, the rise and fall of its streets, an interesting street layout, the fact that it is located on a river and the views into the town from both the Lahinch road and from the Fair Green near the graveyard. However the overall presentation of the town is not good and these assets are not capitalized upon. For example, coming across the bridge from the Lahinch road, the backs of buildings are highly visible and are generally not well presented. Roofs which can be seen from the Fair Green and sites within the town also leave much to be desired in terms of presentation. These assets of the town should be identified and capitalized upon and built into a planned work programme.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Community Centre looks exceptionally well. The town has a successful mix of buildings in terms of architectural style and function. An inventory of buildings requiring remedial work and those with good architectural features which should be retained should be compiled. St. Andrews Centre (the old Church of Ireland) closes the vista at the end of the Main Street beautifully and every effort should be made to enhance this area. There are far too many plastic neon signs on buildings. Keep up the efforts to have these removed.

LANDSCAPING

The picnic area on the Lahinch road looked well and its simplicity is quite appealing. The Famine memorial on the Lahinch road is commendable, all connected with it are to be congratulated. Your landscaping programme should be extended to the streets of the town centre. Many stretches of footpath are sufficiently wide to accommodate this and there are many hard surfaced open spaces. The sign for the "Falls Hotel" located in the Lahinch road picnic area should be removed altogether as it is both unsightly (due to needing to be refurbished) and it is too large and out of scale for this site. The Deerpark site looks well also, although this adjudicator is surprised that it is used by locals to sit and read newspapers as the seating here looks far too small for adults.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The difficulty regarding the riverbank and the river park walk to the bridge is appreciated, perhaps an engineering study for flooding of the riverbank might be necessary here. The cascade is a unique feature of the town and one that should

be capitalized upon; work in progress appears to be on-going in this area.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is quite poor throughout the town. You need to put a good litter management campaign into action. The road down by the library was particularly littered. The new Tidy Towns Handbook contains some excellent guidelines for developing a good litter management strategy.

TIDINESS

Weed growth along kerbs in outlying areas, (for example near the Day Hospital) was a problem. Monastery Lane has an overall appearance of being dishevelled due to the extremely poor presentation of buildings.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The Bramble Court residential development of apartments looks well. Nearby older properties are generally well presented and brightly painted also. It is a pleasure to note the litter free aspect of residential areas. A good presentation under this heading.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Some items of street furniture were very poorly presented. For example there are some excellent old style water pumps around the town and all of these need to be cleaned and repainted. The roadside area to the Day Hospital could be resurfaced, although landscaping here looked well. Verges on the Lahinch road had been recently cut during adjudication but grass cuttings had been left behind and were becoming discoloured. These should be removed as part of the cutting job. The road behind the town at the graveyard and leading to the mart badly needs to be resurfaced. Carparking along the main street should run parallel to the footpath to reduce the visual impact. Part of your work programme might be to provide nameplates for streets and different areas of the town together with those for residential areas.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ennistymon has many fine features, however there is plenty of scope for improvement.