

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **WHITEGATE-CLARE**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	27
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	16	15
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	14	15
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	5	6
TOTAL MARK	300	7170	168

Whitegate, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Whitegate is welcome to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition, thank you for the completed application. You should now prepare a planned work programme for the village outlining your objectives over the next three to five years for the development of the village. There is excellent advice / guidelines on how to prepare such a plan in your Tidy Towns Handbook. Do send in the planned work programme to us with next year's application. Well done on the completion on the improvement work at the church and at other sections of the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There are some very fine properties in the village but sadly also there are a number of very poorly presented properties. Those located at corners and in prominent locations in the village should receive priority treatment. Pay particular attention to low roofs as rusted corrugated roofs can be very unsightly looking. Also pay particular attention to outbuildings as these tend to look quite poor. The old church looks poor at its roadside and gable wall. Could this be replastered and painted and the sign outside for "Whitegate Fitted Furniture" be refurbished. A few other commercial properties are in similar need of attention. In particular the corrugated outbuilding located in the village centre at the junction with the Portumna road spoils the entire streetscape and if it is not to be removed, perhaps its visual impact can be softened by encouraging a fast growing climbing flowering plant to clothe it.

LANDSCAPING

Young trees and shrubs around the village and at entrances are maturing well. Be careful in your choice of shrubs and trees and make a point of using native species. The new planter in the village centre outside of the church should feature a specimen plant in the centre with a little height for added interest. There is plenty of scope for extending your landscaping programme throughout the village. This, of course, will be included in your work programme.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Again you are referred to the Tidy Towns Handbook and the section and wildlife which contains excellent ideas for getting a wildlife project off the ground. Being located so close to Lough Derg in addition to the wildlife of fields and hedgerow there will be a variety of projects that might be undertaken. This can be especially successful if the project is run in

conjunction with the school and other local community groups. Some stands of wildflower on verges and approach roads have been noted and these are attractive also. If you wish to display wildflowers on approach roads then you will need to follow a very careful mowing regime, again this is all explained in your Tidy Towns Handbook. Another suitable project under this heading would be to develop a walk to 'Cós-poir' or 'Slí na Slaínte' standards to Lough Derg. You will need to provide information for walkers regarding distance and so on. Guidelines for developing walks are provided by the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation and the Department of Health and Children (Slí na Slaínte).

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is good and it is good to note that both school children and adults are engaged in regular clean-ups. How often do they take place? Do they take place on a year round basis or only during the summer months? What other arrangements have been made regarding a litter maintenance programme? Are there sufficient litter bins in the village? It would seem that perhaps there are not.

TIDINESS

There are many underdeveloped sites around the village which look untidy. All owners of properties should be asked to appropriately screen their sites if these are untidy in appearance and are not due for development soon. Derelict buildings are also a problem for Whitegate under this heading. Has the committee approached the County Council regarding these?

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The development of new residential areas have been noted. These have been finished to a high standard and are nicely painted. They enhance their streetscape and the overall villagescape of Whitegate. A further development was under construction during adjudication and it is hoped that this will be finished to the same high standard, particularly in respect of road and footpath surfaces and entrances, gardens etc. The majority of properties under this heading look well.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the day of adjudication approach roads to the village had been recently cut at their roadside verges and looked quite neat. Most items of street furniture look well, however a notable exception is a number of derelict looking petrol pumps. Can these be removed or at least be refurbished or masked successfully? New car parking spaces in the village centre are tidy. Are there plans to have service cables ducted and telegraph poles removed?

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Whitegate is one of on-going development and verging on underdevelopment in some sections of the village. Now that the village centre has been redeveloped attention should now be placed on undeveloped sites and derelict buildings.