

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BISHOPSTOWN**
County : **CORK**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	22	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	20	20
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	176	171

Bishopstown, County Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The co-ordination of the activities of such a large area for the purposes of development, presents a great challenge to your committee. Perhaps by categorising the various sectors, - housing estates; business premises; open spaces and parks and so on you would be able to form a focus of motivation and interest that would benefit the combined efforts of all. From such a proposal a co-ordinated plan for the coming 3 to 5 years could be developed. Such planning will obviously involve public and voluntary groups and offers interesting possibilities.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Bishopstown area comprises a wide variety of aspects of the built environment – from churches and schools and colleges to business and industrial as well as residential housing of varied styles. The standards in the region are generally high . The Church of the Real Presence; St. Peters, and the church of the Holy Ghost are all very prominent landmarks in this area. Schools are well maintained. The huge number of business premises within the Bishopstown area play a very significant role not only for their buildings but also for the amount of land they occupy and the landscaping involved. The shopping centres and their car parks are attractive and each acts as a focus of activity which can help develop a sense of community in an area which has become so busy and in danger of becoming impersonal. This happens in areas of this size and diversity. The TSB, AIB, Irish Permanent, and Credit Union are very prominent and attractive. The County Hall and Kinsley hotel were noted.. The CIT building as well as Melbourne area buildings and Department of Agriculture add to the collection of important buildings. The many small shops, petrol stations and public houses were observed and while there is a range of qualities of presentation the overall standards are good.

LANDSCAPING

There is a considerable amount of landscaping within the enclosure of the Bishopstown area. The roundabouts are well treated . The Sarsfield roundabout is particularly interesting with the choice of planting – New Zealand flax playing a significant part as well as tree plantings. The vast amount of planting at the Cork Business park coming is well advanced and provides excellent screening and cover which is welcome from both aspects – both for screening the massive buildings from the road and providing a better environment on the inside. Tree planting is so important to ensure that there is a succession of tree planting for future generations. Areas of the Melbourne Business Park have been very well planted.. The

value of individual gardens within housing estates or along the main roads cannot be overemphasised, People who look after their gardens presenting an attractive picture contribute greatly to the overall landscape of the area.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

On the warm summer evening of the adjudication it was marvellous to see so many people availing of the riverside walk park. This is such an extensive park and it offers a great deal. While one aspect of this area is a use for sport or simply walking, the wildlife aspect offers a different potential. Information could be gathered by involving conservation groups and groups with wildlife interests. Advice will help to improve the interpretation of such information and particular areas could act as special interest areas by developing particular conditions. The Chestnut Grove area was observed. This has a nice stand of mature trees backing the site but to denote this as particularly wildlife rich would need more concentration of natural vegetation.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter continues to present real difficulties. The areas most in danger are obviously shopping areas , bus stops, and well-used areas of the park and in some case petrol forecourts. A comprehensive approach dealing with schools, shopping centres and open spaces is required in which a constant awareness could be kept in front of people thereby keeping the issue very much alive in people's minds.

TIDINESS

The area opposite the Farm Centre on the Victoria Cross road showed a considerable amount of grass and weed along the pavement and wall footage. Similar amounts were noted at the County Council Offices. This type of vegetation gives a very untidy and uncared for look and focus should be placed on these areas and other areas where similar situations arise.. Tidiness in terms of shop signs and advertisements are worth studying to try to eliminate very intrusive signs and those, which cause clutter.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The very many residential areas show a good standard of care of home and garden presentation. Having local competitions is a great way to motivate people to care for their properties. Open greens offer opportunities for tree planting which many have been used for but in many locations vast open greens with a minimum of tree planting were noted. Bishopcourt Green; Bishopscourt Drive; Uam Var estate each are well presented. The many houses, which are not in estates but along streets, play a very prominent part as they face streets rather than being enclosed within estates.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The roundabouts, Ring road, business park roads, amenity riverside park roadside and old streets all offer a varied pattern of roadway. Traffic is particularly heavy on all routes and pressure of traffic needs to be alleviated . The ring roads are helpful in this respect.. The many openings onto the roads from shopping areas, estates and business areas put considerable strain on the road system which was never made for such traffic.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is evidence of an overall force to improve the Bishopstown area . As stated at the beginning, the co-ordination of a number of agencies will progress the development. The landscape aspect is particularly important as it can both ameliorate the effects of buildings and help link all the sectors of the area together forming a green thread that would be woven through all the various areas.