

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BLARNEY**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	33
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	28	28
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	14	12
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	19
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>190</b>

## **Blarney, County Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The participation in the steering group is a well-directed activity ensuring that there is co-ordination of the work being done in the overall development of the village, its surrounds and facilities. The castle has a predominating influence on the village and creates a great focus of activity for which good back up provisions are necessary. Your application with extra materials was very useful in seeing the direction the village is taking in relation to the "The Blarney plan" and significant changes will occur as that proceeds.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There is a high standard of buildings present in Blarney. The buildings around the square confer good quality on the village with the AIB, Garda station, Library and Hotel to one side and the residential properties on the opposite side. The Church of Ireland is impressive and the gates both of this church and the town parks are noteworthy. Building work above Malones pub is noted and it is important that a watchful eye is kept on all building developments that they are well finished and the surrounding building disruption cleared and the area reinstated as before. The Health Centre and surgery are in good condition. The Catholic Church is particularly well set off with its fine finish and prominent position in well-landscaped grounds. The Blarney Woollen Mills and adjacent Crilly Hotel buildings lend further character to the village and the Virginian creeper gives a lovely appearance to the entire development. Shopping areas are well tended to. The schools are in good condition and Blarney Castle forms a great focus of attention.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The natural landscaping of the area sets the tone of Blarney with the mature trees, river and valleys. Taking this aspect within the village is important. This is helped by the number of very mature trees within the village notably in the Woollen Mills areas. The planting of large type trees should be done on an ongoing basis so that there is a continuity of age structure and that the next generations can enjoy mature trees as we do from the plantings of past generations. The Children's Woodland Park is an interesting development as is the Inchancomain Park. The grounds of the Blarney Castle can be considered part of the overall landscape of the village as the public can access them. The walkway from the Woollen Mills to the castle entrance is very useful and with such traffic and hazardous road bends the walkway gives security to pedestrians. Individual home gardens provide an enormous amount of landscape addition to the village and every person who cares for his garden well contributes well in this respect. The containerised plantings in the village are very colourful

and give an extra sparkle to the village. While the Blarney development Plan chooses to leave the town square in its present form – depending on the ways in which it is used should determine a review of the planting and format of the this square. While it may be very functional in its present form for the current activities it appears uninteresting in itself at present and there are several alternatives that could be considered.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The surrounding areas have so much to offer in terms of wildlife facilities on account of the natural landscapes. Woodland and riverside are two excellent habitats and can provide such interest. The development of the Martin valley Trail is progressing and will be a wonderful asset.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Some litter was noted at the seating outside the Church of Ireland and also within the river as viewed from the bridge. Constant vigilance is needed in this regard. The Fas scheme you mentioned in your submission is an excellent idea and often the raising of awareness can help people to be mindful of the litter situation. Recycling bins too are an excellent idea.

## **TIDINESS**

There is a very good tidy aspect to Blarney with the square and surrounds having very orderly appearance. Businesses appear to be well organised and shop fronts are kept tidy. New footpaths add to the quality of the walkways. The huge amount of cars parked can be troublesome.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Residential areas are well maintained. – Individual housing and the small estates. The inter-estate competition idea you provide is an excellent idea and helps awareness. The colourful houses within the village are attractive. . Anywhere where areas of open grass occur presents an opportunity for tree planting and should be availed as remarked above. These frequently occur, at housing developments and present real opportunities which add further character to an estate and help to unify the area within the overall context of the richly planted surrounds of Blarney

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Hedges, trees and walls form an important feature of the approach roads and the presentation of these without interruption or detraction is a good approach to bear in mind. The prospect of a bypass is very welcome and will relieve the village of much wear and tear and provide a calmer atmosphere. The road system is in good condition.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The co-ordinated approach of all concerned in the village is admirable and ensures a good focus of development. With increased tourist and traffic levels carparking will become more strained. The bypass will be very helpful. The natural countryside is being well used in the incorporation of developments in Blarney.