

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ASKEATON**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	30
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	22	23
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	187	186

Askeaton, Co. Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for excellent updating of three-year plan. The illustrated map proved most helpful on adjudication day. Your ability to secure a Fás scheme and fund it is most commendable. You have done well with Fás developments in recent years and much of the work done previously is now maturing and enhancing the town's appearance. Also, much of the previous work is suffering from poor or inadequate maintenance. In planning for future developments it is important to ensure subsequent maintenance. The Leader programme is also excellent and the plan will serve you well in future years.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The public buildings mentioned last year looked well again. The National School would benefit from painting of the boundary walls at least and spraying of the yard before the holiday break. St. Mary's Church was well presented with grass freshly cut. The A.I.B. is well presented, but the problems in the adjoining car park are similar to last year with litter strewn about. The tree planting here is also in need of attention. The Library is, as ever, well presented, but the unoccupied house beside it is an eyesore. There seems to be no access to the castle and no indication of whether it is open to view or not. A notice on the bridge would be a help to the visitor. There is a great deal of unoccupied and derelict buildings in and about the town. Indeed, many of the former 20th century corn stores etc. are now falling into decay. Do you have any plan for tackling the many historic buildings in the town?

LANDSCAPING

The by pass has certainly reduced the traffic throughput and the traffic is now at a much more acceptable level. This offers scope for more use of the town by residents and visitors and this should lead to more landscaping for the enjoyment of all. The landscaping work outlined in your submission is praiseworthy and will further enhance with the passing of time. However, you should only engage in extra landscaping if you have a programme to maintain.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Well done on the work done at the Community Hall in benefiting wildlife. You are also endowed with an attractive river offering more scope for the promotion of wildlife. Try and list the local species and transfer to an illustrated display board for erection near the river bridge.

LITTER CONTROL

You have a serious litter problem, if one is to judge by what was seen on adjudication day. The town centre and the approach roads were very poor, due to a profusion of litter in some areas. The community is letting you down in this section and it is most regrettable in view of all the capital works that have been carried out in recent years. However, your problems are shared with many other centres of your size.

TIDINESS

The points made in last year's report apply again this year. Untidiness relates to a great deal of dereliction and apparent abandoned sites and premises. Limerick County Council might help with applying their powers for some of the derelict houses – especially those in the core of the town.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Church View housing estate; with its magnificently landscaped entrance is one of your best residential areas. Some of the housing estates have no identity sign, which makes it difficult for the adjudicators. You should tackle this problem and give people a sense of identity for the place they live. Again this year, the individual effort has been great and some excel in flower presentation. Please refer to last year's report for improvement under this section.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

It is accepted that you have an inordinate amount of back and side lanes and entrances. The older ones, which offer a glimpse of medieval architecture, are important and should be identified. Consider a medieval trail starting at the castle and have it signposted. This would increase interest in the history and heritage of the town. Any progress on the riverside development?

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You have held your own more or less but you have problems with litter control. The town has potential for higher marks, but you have problems with dereliction and unattended open spaces. You also have the vision to improve as outlined in your plan. Good luck for the future.