

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CARLINGFORD**  
County : **LOUTH**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	--
The Built Environment	40	29	--
Landscaping	40	28	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	--
Litter Control	40	25	--
Tidiness	20	12	--
Residential Areas	30	23	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	--
General Impression	10	6	--
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>--</b>

## **Carlingford, County Louth**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Carlingford is very welcome back into the competition after an absence of two years. Thank you for your entry form and detailed map. Perhaps you could include some of the modern developments and housing on the map for next year. In order to make progress in the competition you must now produce a simple 3/5 year plan, clearly setting out the projects you wish to undertake in the future. You should highlight each year the works you have completed. This will help the association to gain recognition for their valuable work and hopefully assist Carlingford to move forward once again to the top level of the competition.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There was a lot of building work in progress in the Market Square at the time of adjudication, so difficult for businesses to look their best. Some properties are very well presented, such as the Oyster Catcher, O'Hares Pub and The Terrace Restaurant/Belvedere House, but others are beginning to look shabby and a little run down. The large derelict property on the corner opposite O'Hares presents an ongoing problem. The newly pedestrianised and paved Tholsel Street looks very well indeed, as do the properties which line it, including the Mint and the Tholsel itself. Hopefully the badly listing ESB pole and overhead wires here are only a temporary problem. The very pleasant atmosphere of this street is surely the best argument for pedestrianising more of the village centre. Both churches are well maintained and the Holy Trinity Heritage Centre and D'Arcy McGee Grainstore are very fine buildings. The children's playground was full on the day of adjudication. This is a great amenity for the village and for visitors, and one that appears to be lacking elsewhere in the county. You should consider painting the Civil Defence building in a colour that would blend in better with the rocky outcrop behind and above it. The planned restoration of Taaffe's Castle will be a very interesting project to look forward to.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The village green appears to be a popular venue for families but would benefit from a general tidy up and some additional planting. The flowerbeds at the D'Arcy McGee Memorial are struggling and need attention. The planting along the fence of the tennis court is a good idea and should be continued along the back section as well. The church grounds and carpark are beautifully presented. The

grounds of Holy Trinity with many mature trees are very pleasant. There are lots of opportunities for suitable new landscaping projects, e.g. at the corner of Ghan House facing the Tholsel. The wonderful floral display in the courtyard of Tholsel Crafts and in the garden of the charming house next door, contribute much to the appearance of the village.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Carlingford has a wealth of natural amenities, which it could make more of. The harbour, the mountain slopes, King John's Castle and the surrounds of the Old Abbey are all rich wildlife habitats. The excellent angling information board and the Táin Way Walking Route Map at the carpark are valuable sources of information for visitors. Perhaps a circular walk taking in the Castle, the Abbey and the harbour area could be developed. Millers Lane and the overgrown lane behind the Old Abbey could be incorporated into this.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Carlingford is a busy village with many potential sources of litter. Quite a lot of litter was noted in the Village Square, at the D'Arcy McGee Memorial, around the Castle, and also floating in the sea at the base of the harbour wall. This is an area where extra vigilance is needed.

## **TIDINESS**

A lot of weed growth was noted in lanes and back areas in particular. More attention is needed to weeding along kerbsides and at the base of walls. Millers Lane to the Old Abbey is a case in point. The entrance to the school needs to be weeded and the walls painted. The accommodation and local services board at the carpark is very shabby and needs to be upgraded. The broken petrol pump at O'Hares corner should be removed. Signposting around the village is messy; you should plan for a more consistent and uniform approach.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There appears to be a lot of new residential development currently taking place in Carlingford. Larkfield Court is an attractive new development. The new looking estate behind the John Haugh Studios is well presented. The large green is neatly cut, but the plants at the entrance and along the fence need attention. The houses, gardens and landscaped areas in St. Olivers Park and St. Michaels Terrace are a credit to the residents. There are some very fine older homes cum businesses with wonderful gardens, such as Ghan House and East Coast Adventure, and many around the harbour which do much to enhance the overall

appearance of the village. A few of the individual houses need to be painted and freshened up.

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

It was noted that work is ongoing on surfacing and kerb laying along the road by the harbour wall. The main approach roads from Dundalk and Omeath are in good condition and give superb views of Carlingford Lough and the Mourne as you approach the village. However, as mentioned above many back areas are untidy and need to be weeded. Kerbing is needed at the front of the village green, where the surface is being eroded by traffic. The surface of the path up to the Castle should be cleared of loose material and upgraded for safety reasons. More extensive use of paving or cobblestones on surfaces within the village would be of visual benefit.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Carlingford has one of the loveliest settings on the East Coast and a wonderful stock of well preserved ancient buildings. It is a village which has the potential to do well once again in the Tidy Towns Competition and attract even more visitors than it receives at present. Concentrate on basics such as weeding and litter and you will continue to make progress.