

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CARRICKMACROSS**
County : **MONAGHAN**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	45
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	38	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	25
Litter Control	40	28	30
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	27	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	247	246

Carrickmacross, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your entry and for the excellent map and photographs that accompanied it. It is most helpful to the adjudicator to see what the committee plans for the coming year and then to compare it against the results. Your photographs and detail were most impressive and most helpful. Well done on that. Also congratulations on the consistency of the approach within your plan and the effective co-operation that you are achieving within many housing estates around the town.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Last year's lengthy adjudication highlighted the refurbishment of the Courthouse, The Market Place etc that was underway. It was good to see this work continuing and to see tremendous achievement at the Workhouse. Congratulations to all concerned on this. The sensitive maintenance of your heritage buildings and of the many fine premises on the Main Street is a credit to you. Again the comments of previous years in relation to the plastic signage continues to give some concern but no doubt achievements are being made here also. The problem with shop goods and free standing signs remarked upon in last year's adjudication remains. This practice should really be discouraged as it interferes with disabled access and with parents with prams etc. It was impressive to note the number of industrial premises that were very well presented notably StatOil Garage with its name beautifully carved in stone, Daly Bros. walls and murals, the Genflex factory with its wonderfully maturing screening and the Barford Meats plant – well done to all here.

LANDSCAPING

Your consistent high scoring in this section is again noteworthy. The new landscaping in the car park adjoining the ESB has matured very well and the wishing well and pump in Cloughvalley as well as the Ballybay/Castleblayney junctions looked very good. The junctions of the Crossmaglen/Cloughvalley Estate were very smart as was the Alderwood Estate. Four small private estates on the Shercock Road were setting excellent standards as were St Macartin's Villas and Convent View. Congratulations to all here. The excellent bedding on the approach roads and junctions throughout the urban area are a tremendous achievement to the Committee and the local committees within those residential areas are to be congratulated.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Lisanisk Park is a tremendous wildlife amenity area, so close to the town and so accessible to the residents. It was most unfortunate therefore that on the day of adjudication that maintenance was at an all time low. There was a considerable amount of litter both in the car park and on the walkway itself. The beds urgently needed extensive weeding and tidying. There is very little sense in having formal planting if it is not well maintained. In addition the wildlife signs have faded considerably and are almost illegible. All in all this wonderful amenity was severely neglected on the day of adjudication and this is reflected in the marking of this section.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter remains a problem in one or two areas. As already noted at Lisanisk Park and in the upper area of the Drumond Estate. Some litter was also noted at the entrance to the O'Duffy's car park. On the other hand your uniform and well painted bins were noted and the very practical approach of placing the larger ones at takeaways ... Well done on this! Residential areas were well presented and your litter awareness programme is obviously working well for the most part.

TIDINESS

This adjudicator last visited Carrickmacross three years ago. On that occasion concerns were raised about the general tidiness especially of the Main Street. On the day of this adjudication there was a considerable number of cigarette butts and small elements of untidiness throughout the footpaths of the Main Street which marred the overall impression. In addition side entrances off the Main Street and on O'Neill Street required attention. Having set itself such high standards Carrickmacross failed to make a true impression of tidiness on the day of adjudication. At the level of competition that you have achieved in the past this is a serious matter and one which will need to be addressed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses throughout the town and on the approach roads and in the estates are all very well presented. Your community spirit is very evident and there is a very high standard set here by all concerned. The terrace at Pierce Avenue and Breffni Heights were noted; Alderwood Estate, the Cloughvalley Estate together with private houses on the Castleblayney Road were all very good. It was nice to see the Round Tower Park at Drumond in such good order and as already remarked, the Cloughvalley Wishing Well and pump etc and picnic tables were most impressive.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads were uniformly well maintained with landscaping noted at the arrival junctions on all sides. The verges were particularly neat and tidy on the Crossmaglen Road and on the Ballybay/Castleblayney approaches. Unfortunately verges needed to be tidied up in the Cloughvalley Estates. It was good to see the fire station area improved over last year. The derelict building beside the ESB shop continues to be an eyesore and should be dealt with in some way. As already remarked elsewhere back areas and side streets left something to be desired and might be a special project for next year.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Having adjudicated Carrickmacross some three years ago this visit proved to be something of a disappointment. Having achieved such high standards in recent years it is self evident that the challenges are ever greater. I felt the emphasis on such excellent landscaping etc needed to be transferred into a greater air of tidiness, especially in relation to the main streets and to the side entrances from there. While this is a severe adjudication the adjudicator felt it was justifiable on the day. Please deal with these issues for the future and I look forward to a return visit again.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (02/08/00)

It was a pleasure to note that many of the points listed under Wildlife and Natural Amenities by the first adjudicator had been dealt with by the time of our second visit. Maintenance at Lisanisk Park was very good and weeding and tidying had been addressed. The wildlife signs were no longer a problem. Litter control however had not improved that much by the time of second adjudication and some marks had been lost in both this area and in the area of tidiness. Litter control was not a serious problem on the main street and was quite good overall but there were weak spots. If these problems are not addressed by next year, it may also result in a loss of marks under general impression. Verges in the Clough Valley estates looked well on our second visit also. The new namestones looked very well and the car park with its disabled access sign was very tidy. The small undeveloped site beside the ESB office could now receive attention. The flowerbeds in the carpark are being well maintained. A good overall presentation.