

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **EASKEY**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	34
The Built Environment	40	26	27
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	24	25
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	187	193

Easkey, County Sligo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your instructive map and outline of your 5 year plan. The 5 year plan could be structured under the headings of competition and outline achievable targets for the committee. It is good to see that you have the full co-operation of the community and your good relationship with the local authority continues.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Easkey, with its many unique features, presents an interesting impact on the visitor. Approaching the town the Health Centre caught the eye and looked well. The Ceard Scoil still needs its paint work refreshed and the derelict site opposite could be tidied. The Courthouse is a fine feature building that still deserves to be more effectively presented. St. Anne's Church and grounds could also benefit from some attention. The main Streetscape did not create as positive an impact as previous years. The combination of litter and individual premises that needed their paint work refreshed gave an almost "tired" impression of the village. The Caravan Park looked bright and well presented. It is good to see some building work in the car park opposite the Post Office, hopefully this whole area will be tidied and finished appropriately. A recently refurbished two storey house by the bridge caught the eye and the owners should be commended for keeping the original sash windows and attractive railings. The school and church looked well, although the large empty planters in the car park looked dull and useless compared to the pretty little small ones at the church door. The Garda Barracks continues to detract from this approach to the village. It is good to hear that you might get it painted. A simple cosmetic job would be a definite improvement. There are other derelict sites in the village that are worthy of the committee's attention, as stated last year. A simple tidy, and a cosmetic painting job can be an effective start. You have already proved this with your work on Fortland Road.

LANDSCAPING

There was a great variety of multicoloured tubs, planters, window boxes and landscaping features enhancing the village with a lovely touch of Summer colour and perennial planting. Make sure that plants in your planters are sufficient and suitable as half empty planters will defeat the impact you are trying to make. The Car Park and Grotto looked well and the trees are coming along nicely. Do ensure that they are sufficiently staked and supported. You have some lovely finger post signs and colour co-ordinated features throughout the village. Perhaps you could apply this to the old ventilation pipes throughout the village. The stone flower beds at the recycling area caught the eye as did the lovely pansy bed in front of the old church which adds so much to the streetscape.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Tidy Towns Committee acknowledges the river and river walk as unique features in your village. Indeed taking this walk also highlights all the features and historical buildings in the village and is worthy of enhancing further. The sea-shore and river/riverbank both provide ample opportunities for enhancing and conserving wildlife and amenity areas. Wildflower meadows/grass areas, nesting boxes, pond/water features, trees and hedgerows offer additional opportunities. Involve local children and relevant local bodies in suitably developing this important area of the competition. The committee previously mentioned a possible feasibility study in this area. I hope you have not cast aside this idea as it could make an important contribution to the whole environment of the village.

LITTER CONTROL

There was a lot of litter evident at the Castle Public Toilets, with overflowing bins that detracted from the area. Also these bins still need to be repaired. Litter was also evident all around the bridge and on the riverbank and indeed on the main street of the village and gathering at tubs and flower beds. A nice new bin was noted in the Grotto car park. The committee must remain vigilant in this important area. All last year's hard work did not reflect in this year's results. Re focus your pitch in this area and consider some of last year's suggestions to improve awareness amongst the community.

TIDINESS

This section of the competition includes keeping open areas, back yards and streets clean, tidy, weed free and appropriately screened. The old caravanette by the castle now appears to be abandoned and should be moved. The backyard area behind the new building opposite Rouse's will hopefully be tidied and screened appropriately when finished. The river walk, when completed, will also create a tidier impression in this whole area when viewed from the bridge. An old open garage on the Fortlands Road is attracting litter. There were a number of bags of cans on the ground beside the recycling bin, perhaps some storage bins are needed for these. The local authorities appear to be using this area for storing materials - hopefully this will not compromise your good work in this area. The graveyard also looked untidy as its grass had yet to be cut and tidied. The effective screening gates in the main street were again noted.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The many bright traditional sea side colours and well maintained homes caught the eye again this year, although they did highlight those that need their paint refreshed or some work on their fences and surrounds. Pharc na Mara looks very well with its tidy green lawn, stone wall and flowers. Many colourful gardens, flower features, window boxes and boundary walls/hedges were noted.

Well done to the individuals concerned.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Once again the approach roads were generally well presented. The road surface at the Castle Car Park still needs attention. The traditional coastal stone walls were again noted on the approach roads and on the roadside to the castle. Many are in good repair but others need repair and tidying up. Remove the weeds and tidy the grass verges and kerbs in front of them. Further work has been completed on the Fortlands Road, with tidy footpath planters and painted poles noted. Keep up this good work, it is paying off. Both the road and path to the Church need attention.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The good work and progress of the committee to date must both be sustained to maintain and perpetuate previous standards. Clearly identify your achievable targets and areas for improvements and focus on them. As stated last year, managing the challenge of dereliction and attention to detail are important priorities.

