

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLASHMORE**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	31
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	209	205

Clashmore, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The entry form and enclosed documentation is impressive – this was confirmed by the extent of the enterprises seen at the time of adjudication. A huge amount of work was in progress, witness the number of people engaged in developmental activities. In regard to the Heritage Centre, it would be entirely unproductive to have it considered for the Heritage Award before the conversion work, let alone the organisation of the displays, has been completed, because at this stage it would be surpassed by actually dozens of other more advanced projects throughout the country. If the Centre is a running concern by June of next year, that would be the time; if not, then the following year. Next year, on your map – which should be of larger scale - please mark all sites, business premises, natural features, etc. where improvements of any kind have been made.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church and School, and their well-maintained grounds, were looking well, as usual. The Distillery is an interesting focal point – it has the attraction of causing the casual passer-by to stop and look; the rusty ironwork should be removed from the gateway and replaced by, for example, a wooden gate. As mentioned above, the Heritage Centre is going to be really first class, judging by the internal renovation and the stairs and woodwork already installed; the exterior of the building has always been attractive, and the current clearing of the graveyard is a real enhancement. (If enough headstones are still legible, there might be an interesting project for Opening Day where a school class could be invited in advance to collect the names and match them to those of still extant families in the neighbourhood, or identify names which have a historical importance.) Business premises in the village were smart on adjudication day.

LANDSCAPING

Planting at the grotto looked very well in its commanding position where four roads meet. Bedding, baskets and tubs here and there were well tended. An large bed had been prepared for planting at the Distillery – a pity it was not ready by the date of the visit, but no doubt it will be next year. As a general note, grass clippings should be removed at the time of mowing, rather than allowing them to wither or rot, giving a poor result where the intention was good. The same may be said of where weeds have been poisoned – the brown remains must be scuffled or dug out, as dead weeds can look worse than when growing.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The riverside, the walk to St Mochua's Well, the unique circular enclosure, and the continued walk towards the Quay, are being considered under this heading this year, as, strictly speaking, they are not 'Landscaping'. This extensive area is yet another of Clashmore's surprises - congratulations for bringing it to public notice. Work was ongoing at the time of adjudication. Remarks made above about grass cutting and weed poisoning apply here. The Quay area was very overgrown – perhaps the Committee is attempting to take on too much. The suggestions made by last year's adjudicator should be considered in regard to wild life. Another project for a school class might be to have each pupil list the names of trees, flowers, birds, animals seen in a day's walk. An illustrated glazed signboard showing the local flora and fauna might be sited at the bridge or the start of the walk – this kind of informational feature has proved popular in several other places.

LITTER CONTROL

This was good, as last year. There was one very large piece of litter – a bicycle - in the stream by the bridge at St Mochua's Well; and minor litter in the Old Still car park.

TIDINESS

The village remained generally tidy. There was some kerbside weed, and quite a lot of weed at the GAA pavilion. Advertising signage has been mentioned on previous occasions.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The older villages houses looked well on adjudication day. The houses on the hilltop estate are also well cared for, but this was an area where kerbside weed was prevalent. It should not take more than a couple of minutes a week for individual householders to see to that weeds do not grow up outside in front of their doorsteps. The 25 houses being built are naturally causing some disruption; they are of promising design, and completion of the estate is looked forward to. There is plenty of space for tree planting here.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Surfaces and paving are good. There is a glimpse of an unsightly back area across the river, but not of great significance. It is suggested that flowering creepers be planted on the fine stone walls of the Old Still carpark

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This is a village where an unusual number of interesting projects are under way. It is a real pleasure to visit, and this adjudicator for one will be an eager visitor at the Heritage Centre when it opens.