

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LISMORE**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-2000

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2000 | Mark Awarded 1999 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 42 | 36 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 36 | 35 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 34 | 33 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 26 | 26 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 34 | 33 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 16 | 16 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 23 | 22 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 32 | 31 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 251 | 240 |

Lismore, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Progress occasioned by the continued implementation of the Development Plan is most impressive. Thank you for the update sheets, and also for the other informative documents. The work undertaken by this Committee and by the associated organisations and official bodies, as well as the residents of the town, is exemplary.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The unique stock of buildings of architectural importance has been commented upon many times: what is splendid is the manner in which they are maintained. Only one will be mentioned here, as an example of a fine building attractively integrated into its streetscape and flanked by appropriate planting: the Bank of Ireland. An out-of-the way building where improvements were very favourably noted is the handsome Railway Station of c.1878. Unfavourable comment is very minor indeed compared to the vastly predominant high achievement – the CBS monastery obviously awaits reinstatement by its new owners as does the wonderful 3-bay 3-storey neo-Classical house to the east of Main Street. Though rather more in the category of 'Residential', it is appropriate here to praise the number of new buildings which reflect the style of older neighbours, for example a scheme on the corner of East Main Street and Parks Road.

LANDSCAPING

The avenue of limes with neat lawns leading to St Carthage's Cathedral, though also praised many times, is so significant to the fabric of the townscape that it is cited here again. The landscaping, with palms, on the curve of the hill leading to the Square, and planting nearer the hotel, is first class. Other public planting here and there, in beds and timber planters, was viewed with pleasure; private planting, including charming displays in window-boxes, tubs and baskets on (especially) older terraces and cottages, was a source of real delight on adjudication day.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The superabundant gardens of Lismore Castle are a splendid asset to the town, as are the natural riverine and woodland resources of the entire neighbourhood. The signposted walks, and the available booklet, have clearly created widespread interest. It was good to see the 'Managed Wild Life Area' beside the road to Tallow, and to

read of the activities of the Wildlife Ranger in schools.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter was not at all conspicuous. (It was unfortunate that on the day of adjudication toilet rolls had been scattered outside the WC, but that is clearly something unusual.)

TIDINESS

Lismore is a remarkably tidy town. The photographs supplied are candid, and clearly steps have been taken to attend to obvious discrepancies. There are only a few vacant sites. There is an ugly 'bunker' opposite the CBC. Kerbside weed was almost entirely absent on adjudication day, and signage clutter of the kind which is all too prevalent elsewhere was absent.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard is very high, both in older and recent housing. Reconstructions and refurbishments of half-timbered gables, dormers and cottage-orné rooflines were to be seen everywhere. Cottages near the Cathedral (though some still in need of repair) are of exceptional charm; others in New Street, Hospital Lane and Chapel Street are often presented with lively flourishes of floral decoration – and humour, as at one in the latter street which has an amusing mural. Infill housing at Chapel Place was very favourably noted indeed. The estate at Park Road was well kept. Neat new housing was seen at Mountain View, and it is hoped that the extensive development at Lios an Oir will blend with local traditions.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There have been good advances under this heading. New paving in at least two areas was noted. Street surfaces are generally good. The excellent cast-iron lamp standards might be extended to further streets as time goes on. Phone boxes were clean and tidy, as was the WC (in spite of the littering mentioned outside). Internal street and directional signage is first class. The car park at the back of the hotel is usually taken as the best example of how such a space should be maintained, and this year was no exception.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A dignified and vibrant town, upon which care is lavished to impressive effect. Photographs additional to those kindly supplied were taken on location, and these will accompany entries for appropriate awards.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (10/08/00)

Congratulations on another fine presentation for second adjudication. Lismore has developed beautifully over the last number of years and its many fine new features complement its wonderful townscape with the gentle rise and fall of its streets and its excellent built environment. Maddens bar was much admired and is being considered for the Best Shopfront Award. The old CBS premises continues to present a problem; no doubt this will be rectified with redevelopment. The perimeter of the tennis court could be landscaped by planting its wire fencing at intervals. The Devonshire Cottages could feature a co-ordinated colour scheme to good advantage and the large stone building located across the road which markets fruit and vegetables could be refurbished. Litter control was excellent. It is anticipated that the new housing developments will reflect and complement the existing architectural features and overall ambience of Lismore.