

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ENNISTYMON**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	32
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	13	14
Tidiness	20	18	19
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	180	178

Ennistymon, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Entry form and attached documentation including a three year work programme was very well presented and of great assistance to the adjudicator. Undertaking new projects is essential but you have also rightly identified that maintenance of work that has already been completed is also vital. You have a long list of groups, Associations and Schools that you liaise with and again this is vital as every person in the community must become part of your effort if the town is to progress in the competition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

A number of business premises such as P.O & Foodmarket, Malone's Garage, the Bank of Ireland, Urquart's Bakery, Fitzpatrick's Supermarket & Restaurant and Kath-Cleans Laundrette were well presented to mention just a few. Also, public buildings such as the Community Centre and the Church and car park were well presented. However, there is a very mixed standard of shopfronts in the town streetscapes and the derelict building next to the entrance to the Cascades is rather an eyesore. The first aspect of the Falls Hotel presented to guests is their car park and on the day of adjudication this included a very untidy corner where old equipment and rubbish were spread outside a doorway and the walls in this corner of the building needed to be repainted. If this has to happen is there a way of cutting it off from public view ? The overhead railway bridge near the riverside viewing area would also need to be painted. The cemetery restoration was noted.

LANDSCAPING

Ennistymon's big feature is the river and the Cascades – this is spelt out on the sign on the Lahinch road – “Home of traditional shopfronts and the Cascades”. However, like many Irish towns, Ennistymon, in fact, has turned its back on the river. There has been some work done to bring people to view the Cascades but this area is weedy, full of rubbish and litter and the steps overgrown. We would suggest that a study be undertaken, in conjunction with the Clare County Council, as to what could be done to make the river a larger feature in the town. Planting in various locations is pleasing including the Deerpark picnic area, the picnic area on the way to Lahinch (where work was taking place on the day) and in various housing areas. The riverside viewing area off the Lahinch road is pleasant and the tubs outside the cemetery arched gateway were colourful – however, most of the cemetery was covered in very long grass. The garden at the Falls Hotel and grounds are well landscaped.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your work in landscaping and planting contributes in this area and we note you have plans in this area for the future.

LITTER CONTROL

Ennistymon was not litter free on the day of adjudication and in fact there were pockets of littering in most corners including near the heritage building of the Old Ennistymon Court House and at the Fire Station entrance. Also, at the Cascades as previously mentioned. A little litter was also to be seen in the grounds of the Falls Hotel and near the tennis courts here. Perhaps a big clean up day could be organised to get rid of what is there and start afresh with a clean sheet.

TIDINESS

This category includes kerbside weeds and unfortunately, these were evident throughout most of Ennistymon. Weeds should be removed and spraying take place in April/May each year. Weedkiller should not be placed directly on weeds as you are then left with unsightly brown areas. It was noted that the Golden Vale Yard was tidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private houses are mostly contributing to the tidy towns efforts. However, some surround walls needed attention. It was noted that eight new apartments are being built at present. No doubt they will be encouraged to contribute to your tidy towns endeavours when completed.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Signage mostly good throughout though signs for Lahinch and Cliffs of Moher leaning over. Sign welcoming visitors to Ennistymon on Lahinch Road is good. Road surface poor near Cullinan's Better Home Centre. The back area between the two rows of terraced houses on the road past the overhead railway bridge would need attention.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A traditional Irish town with many good features, including the Cascades. Obviously, your committee are undertaking some very good work and making progress each year. However, your task now would seem to be to endeavour to involve all residents of Ennistymon, old and young, in your work and aspirations for the town in the future.