

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	34
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	10	13
Tidiness	20	16	18
Residential Areas	30	22	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	178	180

Ennistymon, Co. Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning a completed entry form and documentation, which included a map, your three-year work programme, and also Aims and Objectives, Long Term Plans and Projects. This is a satisfactory approach as it gives order to what the Committee hope to do and acts as a checklist on progress. All this information is of great help to the adjudicator.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Ennistymon is a pleasant town with a nice atmosphere. Most buildings are well cared for and attractive. Public building on the whole are very good so it came as quite a surprise to find that the Library, which includes the County Council Office gave an absolute air of neglect and lack of maintenance. The amount of litter both in the forecourt and also in the garden was quite unbelievable. Many items need repair, including the steps, the paving. The paving, which has been replaced, is unacceptable, being poor quality concrete in the middle of Liscannor type paving. Behind the Library there is a unique shed, with good stonework and a Liscannor slab roof. This has been allowed to fall into disrepair. In fact at this stage it is possibly quite dangerous. There is also another shed with a defaced mural and a broken metal roof, partially torn off. It would be good if the Committee could persuade the County Council to attend to their home ground and its environs. The Church and its grounds are excellently maintained and indicate the quality that can be achieved. The Court House is a very fine building and is to be put to good use. It is now in the process of being fitted out. Weeds and briars, downpipes etc on the front elevation, need attention. The footpath surface is very poor except on Parliament Street. Care must be taken to retain the existing stone kerbing that still exists on the older footpaths.

LANDSCAPING

The tree planting that has been carried out is satisfactory but there is much room for additional planting. The Cascades look well and now, since the expansion of the Falls Hotel they are much more open to view. Though the landscaping of the Falls Hotel is pleasant, some thought should be given to planting trees in the car park, which creates a poor visual image. The entrance to the Golden Vale shop should be enclosed with trees, matching the trees on the far side. The hanging baskets on the bridge are excellent and it is a very nice idea to have them overhanging the river.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is important to keep up planting works throughout the town so as to encourage wild life. The ESB should be encouraged

to plant some trees at their entrance area

LITTER CONTROL

Litter is a problem particularly with the Library surroundings, the river at the bridge and the entire area between Market House and Church of Ireland. At the Library there was one litter bin there and that was full. The bottle bank area had many broken open bags of litter but no litter container. Looking from the bridge upstream, was very bad but could be improved with a couple of hours work, removing litter and weeds. These areas must receive special attention for next year's entry

TIDINESS

The sidewalk repair finish is very poor and this gives a very untidy impression. There is an archway off the main street, walking down toward the Cascades that could be improved. The light standards and the overhead wiring give an air of untidiness. It is suggested that as a long term project, these wires be put underground and the lights attached to the wall of buildings.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses and the treatment of their grounds and tree planting at the entrance from Lisdoonvarna was excellent. On the whole residential areas were good.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces could be improved. Over the years a design should be brought out for treating the sloping area in front of the Church. A good urban design for this area would improve the whole town. There are an unbelievable number of signs on the road entrance from Lahinch. These should be revamped and given some continuity. Traffic and parking is a problem particularly at rush hours. A traffic plan should be prepared and implemented, to help alleviate this.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ennistymon is a traditional Irish town with some outstanding features including the Cascades, the Court House. As mentioned last year all members of the community, including the Local Authority should be encouraged to be involved and good progress should be achieved.