

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **SCARRIFF**  
County : **CLARE**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 15-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	28	26
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>191</b>

## **Scarriff Co. Clare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The attached project work programme for 2001 was a very detailed response to the requirements laid out in the Competition. It is noted that Scarriff has quite a high number of members on the Committee and this demonstrates the ability to have such an extensive programme. The introduction of a household payment per week would seem to be a very successful method of raising funds.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The built environment is essentially dictated through the siting of the town on top of the hill. It would seem as newer development is introduced into the town, it should be at the lower contours of the town, thus the important historical fabric is at the top and contains the greatest diversity of buildings. This compact nature at the top of the hill presents a very interesting experience because the town car park is an unexpected open space after climbing the hill. It must be stated that the petrol pumps at the edge of the car park are not a usual element to see in the centre of an urban square. The Bank of Ireland presents a very good entry feature on the road leading into the town from Tuamgraney. The Credit Unit looks very well and most of the shops are very well finished which improves the quality of the main street. It must be stated that the wirescape on the road leading up from Tuamgraney to the centre of the village needs attention as it does destroy the streetscape. Would it not be possible to have the wires placed at the rear of the buildings or kept to one side of the street so that there is a reduction in the amount of wires crossing this streetscape.

### **LANDSCAPING**

There would seem to be a minimal investment in long-term planting. This is perhaps one of the most necessary areas in most villages because of the extensive amounts of development in the recent decade. All the floral arrangements and hanging baskets looked very well and were very well kept. In particular, the street trees, with the flowers at the bases looked very well. The village has a significant number of small park spaces and the general attendance varies. The Bank of Ireland presents a very strong front garden image to the main street, which offsets the disappointing design of the building. However, it is perhaps at the factory where the Committee should put some emphasis on persuading this facility to invest in some landscaping within the vicinity of the factory gates.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The recent purchase of the six acre field adjacent to the riverside park on the Feakle road is a definite candidate for this category. The project works programme identifies future

works for this town park and there is a need to submit future plans on how wildlife can be integrated. There is a need to present some of the information gained on wildlife in the next Development Plan as the project works programme would seem to provide an aspirational direction of wildlife concerns for the village.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

This category is raised because of the high standard that the Committee has ensured. This particular category has been noted on several visits to the village, over the past year.

## **TIDINESS**

The new amenity centre, which contains re-cycling facilities at the outskirts of the town is a great asset and benefit to Scarrif. However its visual impact on the surrounding landscape creates a rather untidy statement and consideration should be given to the use of coppicing plants or long-term screening. In general, the centre of the village is very tidy. However there is attention needed on some of the slopes, such as at the Y-junction leading to Moynoe graveyard.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Scarrif has a fairly compact footprint for the full extent of the village. The integration of the residential areas beside the commercial areas is quite successfully handled over a continual staging of development. There is a need for the residential areas to acquire a much better sense of character which has been associated with the streetscapes. This may be achieved through introducing a policy on colour. In general there is very good variation in the presentation of the residential areas. Perhaps one element that should be considered is the manner in which the residential areas invest in trees. At present distant views of the village indicate a very strong roof pattern which needs to be visually broken up in scale. Consideration should be given to establishing large mature trees at strategic locations so as to better integrate this urban image within distant views of the village.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The Church is quite isolated from the village and presents a very crisp environment. There is perhaps a need for the on-street car parking to be more clearly defined. The entry to the G.A.A. grounds has a significant amount of space to allow for traffic movement. However, views into this facility should be more integrated with the surrounding countryside, such as through the introduction of native hedging or stands of trees. The road that by-passes the village, at the base of the slopes, between Tuamgraney and Mounthshannon needs to have the junctions better defined and imposes a stronger pattern of control. This must also be stated for the entrance to the factory. It is views from this lower road that require some attention to screening, particularly as the rear of many developments face this road.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

This village has always had a strong character which is associated with a small village. Perhaps the most charming aspect of this visit was the recognition of the converted house into a miniature "Odeon" cinema. This is a very interesting architectural project and demonstrated that even through the many visits made to this village, that there was always something new to be found.