

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BLARNEY**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 10-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	35
The Built Environment	40	30	28
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	29	28
Litter Control	40	21	23
Tidiness	20	12	14
Residential Areas	30	20	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	20
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>197</b>

## **Blarney, County Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Many thanks for your detailed submission – perhaps for next year's competition you could indicate clearly on your site plan the areas you wish considered for nomination for the various awards. The Blarney plan certainly made for interesting reading with many fine ideas for the development of the village. The adjudicators look forward to reading your future plan in relation to Blarney's Tidy Towns entry. Good luck with your fostering of your future relationship with the local community.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Both public and commercial premises of the village looked well on adjudication day. The schools were presented to a good standard although the boundary wall of the boy's national school on the Killarney side of the village should be painted up before next year's competition. The stone library is quite charming and adjoining buildings on the square such as the Garda Station, Lemon Tree Restaurant, and Blarney Castle Hotel were all presented to an extremely high standard. The churches looked well – the stone and brick Catholic Church on its grassy bank and Church of Ireland in its prominent location on the village green. Premises to the Killarney side of the village such as the Credit Union and Health Centre were well maintained. Are there any plans for developing a more permanent structure for the Post Office in the future, as its current building looks somewhat impermanent in nature?

### **LANDSCAPING**

The proposals in relation to the green are highly desirable in terms of their minimum intervention. The stone wall with incorporated planting on the road leading to the girl's national school were admired, as were the hanging baskets contained in stands in front of the Church of Ireland. The Gothic bridge pump house is an interesting project. The attractive entrance area with tubs to private grounds beyond the square looked quite magnificent.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The Clogheen Milken Wildlife Reserve is certainly a fine asset to the village, as is the Martin Valley Walk which certainly seemed to be well used on the day. The provision of a sculptured park and seating areas will certainly make this a most interesting place to be!

### **LITTER CONTROL**

In a village of Blarney's size even one or two papers are all the more evident. Hence you must be ever vigilant of this scourge! The entrance area to the driving range was quite

littered, as indeed was an entrance further along this road and to a recessed area to the school in this location. More papers were evident strewn along the Killarney Road and along the walk from the Woolen Mills to the Castle and wildlife reserve entrance and car park.

## **TIDINESS**

The standard in this category of the competition could also have been higher. The dead weeds to the base of the fence of the sports ground should be removed. There are far too many signs indicating directions to the bed & breakfasts in the villages surrounds. These should be standardised in terms of design and therefore their impact would be reduced and hence the streetscape would have a less cluttered appearance. Yard areas should be screened from public view, as they can look quite messy and untidy.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The standard in this area of the competition was very good, with the many accommodation premises contributing greatly to the overall impression. Of note were the Blarney Vale House Bed & Breakfast with its rough garden, the White House B&B and Meadow Bank B&B. The Groves Estate was reasonably well maintained, although houses close to the Castle Close Crescent junction appeared quite grubby. The attractive raised gardens on the Cork Road were greatly admired.

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

The standard in this category of the competition could have been better. Although the verges were reasonable, the signage on this side of the village is extremely grubby, i.e. both the village nameplate sign and the Cead Mile Fáilte to Blarney sign. The walkway with its new trees, stone tower monument and wild flowers contribute greatly to the appearance of this approach to the village. Signage was also a problem on the Killarney Road where a junction sign was extremely grubby and the Cead Mile Fáilte sign was virtually obscured by overgrowth. This is an attractive approach to the village with its magnificent views towards the castle and mature overhanging trees. The By-Pass will be a definite plus for the village, as traffic control with the high visitor level is a distinct problem.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Blarney is a charming village with much activity to be seen. Although the village center maintains its village atmosphere, do ensure that future development is in keeping with the character of Blarney.