

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LEAP**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	--
The Built Environment	40	32	--
Landscaping	40	20	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	--
Litter Control	40	30	--
Tidiness	20	12	--
Residential Areas	30	24	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	--
General Impression	10	7	--
TOTAL MARK	300	196	--

Leap, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Leap is indeed welcome back to the competition after an eight year absence. You will have noted that the judging criteria of the competition has changed since your last entry in 1993. The village will certainly have extended in size and sheer volume of traffic a great deal since then. You should draw up a three or five year work programme outlining your plans and goals for village improvement. You should set these against a timescale for their implementation and update it every year. Many thanks for your map which was useful on adjudication day – for next year perhaps you could indicate areas of interest in relation to your application clearly on same.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Catholic Church looked well – there is scope for developing a landscaping project to their tarmacadamed car park area which appears quite bare at the moment. The national school and grounds were well maintained. Business premises were extremely bright and cheerful such as Linda O'Neill's, O'Donovan's, the Hardware Shop, the Leap Inn and Kikshaw's. An empty shop near the Glandore junction looked quite sad. The tourist information office was fine although its gable to the laneway needs freshening up and staining was evident below the tourist information sign. The Post Office should be freshened up before next year's competition.

LANDSCAPING

The stream running parallel to the Cork Road with its attractive bridges, some in stone, across to houses on this road adds greatly to its presentation. There is scope for further landscaping in front of the playing courts. An incidental landscaped area at the recess in the road by O'Donovan's Furniture was admired. There is much scope for further progress in this aspect of the competition with a village of Leap's length.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Leap is indeed fortunate in its prime location adjacent to Myross Woods and the magnificent gorge after which the village is named. Your information boards on the tourist information office showing wildlife species of the village were most attractive as they were beautifully hand painted. Perhaps you could get the local school children involved in drawing up a map indicating areas of wildlife interest in the area which could be incorporated with local walks.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good with the village being virtually litter free. However some papers were noted on the Skibbereen side of the village.

TIDINESS

Weed control was a problem on the day – weeds and broken stone walling was evident on the Skibbereen Road. Weeds were also apparent to curbsides along Main Street in one or two locations. The broken bench by the phone boxes should be repaired before next year's competition. Weeds were also evident at the curbsides on the Cork side of the village near the playing courts. Fly posting is a practice which should be discouraged as it gives a very cluttered appearance.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is much evidence of construction activity in this category of the competition. A magnificent garden on a grassy bank with permanent planting extending over its stone boundary wall to the roadside was greatly admired on the Cork approach. Woodview Court is a new development on this road. An attractive garden diagonally opposite the Catholic Church was admired. The terrace of houses in the centre of the village looked extremely bright – however the adjacent stepped wall looked quite neglected in comparison. The charming two storey cottages with flowers to the front at the Glandore junction was greatly admired as was another raised garden on the Skibbereen Road. Attractive dry stone walling to a cottage entrance on the Cork Road was admired.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category was somewhat inconsistent. On the Cork Road the verges had been well cut on one side but appeared quite neglected on the other side of the road. The concrete post and wire fence on this side of the village should be replaced with hedging of an indigenous variety such as beech or hawthorn. Roadworks appeared to be taking place in this location – the standard at the children crossing sign was somewhat lower than the rest of the road. The Skibbereen Road could have been maintained to a higher standard. Graffiti was apparent to the Glandore sign on this side of the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Leap is an attractive village with much through traffic. It is set in some magnificent natural scenery and obviously has a fascinating history. Congratulations on an excellent re-entry into the competition.