

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MACROOM**
County : **CORK**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	230	227

Macroom, Co.Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Many thanks for your five year work programme which made extremely interesting reading. The adjudicator was pleased to note that it had been updated yearly to show your progress in relation to these achievements. Next year will be the final year of this document – so it will be time to draw up a new one. Many thanks for your map which was most helpful on the day.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The standard of premises could have been improved upon on adjudication day. The area in the vicinity of New Street appeared quite colourless, with the exception of Centra and Quinlan's Craft shop, both of which were extremely bright. An abandoned building was apparent behind an advertising hoarding on the Killarney approach. The museum appeared quite neglected. Buildings in the main squares were generally to a higher standard. R. Collins is an attractive traditional front and the health centre was maintained to a high standard. However Golden's on the south square adjacent to the theatre appeared quite neglected as did Insurance House which sported weeds to its gutters. The credit union was admired as was the Bealick Mill – although the flag post was quite rusty. The national school and grounds were extremely well maintained and the church situated as it is on the hill with its attractive roadway leading up was greatly admired. The Cork end of the town appeared to be quite shabby in comparison to the main squares and streets. The attractive early modern post office was admired.

LANDSCAPING

The standard in this category of the competition was as good as ever. The attractive new trees to the front of Looney Car Sales were admired as was the mature planting and seating on the Killarney Road. The grotto area was neat and ordered – perhaps you could consider introducing some colour in terms of planting in this location. The town pump is now working as a water feature on the square and was admired. The attractive landscaping on the Cork side of the town – especially the simply presented bronze bull was admired. Daisies planted in beds on neatly cut verges, with the grass presenting a more natural appearance farther from the roadside, was greatly admired.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Macroom is indeed fortunate in this regard due to its marvelous location in close proximity to the River Lee and Inishcarra Reservoir. The marvelous amenity value of the riverside and woodland walks in the castle grounds can not be stressed highly enough.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control could have been much better on the day. Quite a lot of litter was evident at the lay-by on the Cork side and to this approach generally. More litter was apparent in the streets and main squares. The litter bins should be painted up before next year's competition as they are beginning to appear quite shabby.

TIDINESS

The practice of advertising hoardings on approach roads should be discouraged as these give a rather cluttered appearance to the roadside as a visitor enters the town. Weeds were noted to the base of the stone boundary wall on the Millstreet Road. A broken down wall near the junction of the Killarney and Millstreet Roads looked unfortunate. At the lay-by previously mentioned on the Cork Road, the grass had been cut but the dead grass had yet to be removed. The concrete post and rail fence in this location should be replaced with stone walling. Weeds were apparent to the base of the stone wall near the town nameplate.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category of the competition was as good as ever. The Glenties, a new housing estate, was admired – perhaps further landscaping could be considered in this location. Houses and gardens were generally fine. Attractive planting was admired by Oakwood Housing Estate. New houses were noted adjacent. In terms of Council houses a terrace on the Cork side of the village was maintained to a high standard – although one or two appeared quite shabby in comparison to others. An attractive crescent of houses on this approach road was also greatly admired.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category was extremely good. The Killarney Road was well maintained closer to the town but deteriorated further out. The new stone walling on the Millstreet Road was admired. These roads afford the visitor an attractive view to the castle on approaching the town. The Cork Road was maintained to an extremely high standard.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The busy town of Macroom looked fine on adjudication day. However at this stage in the competition it is all too easy to lose the initial fire and enthusiasm. Progress can only be achieved with continued efforts at this highly ranked position in the competition.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/01)

Extensive road surfacing works were in progress on the Killarney approach during our second visit. Fortunately litter control seemed much better this time. Macroom is a fine ordered town - if all the community, commercial as well as

private in conjunction with the Local Authority were to consistently pull their weight the town could, it is believed, with relative ease substantially improve its position in the competition. The bright colours complementing the historic stone buildings, brightened up a dull day. The use of sculpture is commended. The town is most certainly in need of a by-pass. We wish you well with your future endeavours!