

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLARENBRIDGE**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21	20
The Built Environment	40	28	26
Landscaping	40	30	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	21
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	188	180

Clarenbridge, Co Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for again entering the Tidy Towns Competition. The committee with the help of the FAS scheme workers are making an impact, especially around the river bank. Perhaps a five year plan is in the offing? This plan is now necessary to proceed in the competition. It does not have to be prepared by a professional, a one or two page document will suffice.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

With a population of around 300, Clarenbridge is still compact enough to maximise its natural and man-made assets. The visitor will find some very tasteful touches. The well known Paddy Burkes two storey thatched Pub adds dignity to the riverside corner. Pity that car owners insist on parking outside the door when there is ample parking at the rear. The stone wall at Stradbally North in course of construction will benefit the area. The Clarenbridge Crystal and Gift Shop have the benefit of a riverside corner site to display their frontage and the back garden is a nice feature laid out with tables and benches.

LANDSCAPING

The river meandered through the stones at the bridge while a pair of swans were just visible down river. Both river banks have been levelled and landscaped. The grass section at the lay-by is left untended with new trees growing and old tree roots lying around. The centrally located village green has some seven traditional donkey carts and other nice features under the mature trees. Church grounds showed signs of weed control measures. The sports ground and the entrance to the cemetery were quite presentable.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Wildlife consists of swans when they are in residence, but were on a downstream visit at the time of our call!

LITTER CONTROL

Litter bins of two different kinds were in evidence. Uniformity would be preferable. A small amount of litter seen in the town street, with rather more on the Dublin approach. Some bottles were found there at the road verge.

TIDINESS

The village has an air of tidiness about it. An old tractor is just about visible at the Stradbally North junction right after the Oyster Manor Hotel. A coat of paint would not come amiss on the entrance gates to the Brothers' Complex and the ornamental pump in the grounds of the Clarenbridge

Crystal and Gift Shop would similarly benefit. Some verges on approach roads had not been trimmed recently. Although the school was closed for Summer, the grass had been mown. The Oyster Manor car park surface was not evenly tarmaced all over.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

It would be too harsh to judge the council estate in its present state of readiness. The Parklands development on the coast road will no doubt prove a gracious asset. Several of the private houses and at least one restaurant in town have beautifully presented gardens.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Walls are one of the fine features of the approach roads to the village. The cemetery entrance is well kept and the coast road has lovely features as far as the estate.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Clarenbridge, an attractive village on the busy N 18 is showing signs of the preference to move away from the city. New Council Estate developments are in progress on the east of the village near the cemetery while the Coast Road provides private housing. There are additional preparatory works started on the west side of the road to Limerick.

As plans for a village bypass come closer to fruition it is to be hoped that heavy traffic bisecting the two sides of the town will soon be a memory. Meantime, it is growing apace, providing homes for the expected increase in population. While in the course of construction they cannot be assessed, but maturity will bring its own rewards.