

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLIFDEN**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	31
The Built Environment	40	30	28
Landscaping	40	22	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	21	21
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	9	8
TOTAL MARK	300	185	177

Clifden ,County Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Firstly, may I compliment you on the wonderful application form you submitted for adjudication. The improvements in Clifden are amazing, and it is very evident that your entire committee and indeed the community are making a really true effort to bring Clifden into the winners enclosure. It is many years since I adjudicated Clifden and I really enjoyed seeing it this year and I look forward to seeing your entire plans realised over the coming years. To be able to report that your committee has raised in excess of £60,000 over the past six years is a major achievement . It is good to see that you are working to your five year plan.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The business premises in the town are all presented to a very high standard. There is great use of colour throughout with window boxes and hanging baskets. There are some lovely traditional shop fronts also. A very good effort is made here under this category. The station house complex and the new tourist office are most attractive and gives a good impression as one enters Clifden.

The grounds at the Community School are well maintained, but I think that the façade of the building could do with a facelift.

LANDSCAPING

The completed work at the Market Square is wonderful and what a difference it makes to the town. I feel that there was too much signage on the roundabout as you enter Clifden from Galway, I think that it would look far more attractive if they were removed. Congratulations to Stephanie Davis, Edel Mahon and Maria Hickey on their project - St Mary's Chapel and Graveyard. It is really encouraging to see the young people showing such an interest in projects such as this - well done.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The list of major species and the flora and fauna you had drawn up is quite impressive. The beach road is presented to a good standard and the bollards were nicely painted. The building beside the RNLI looks a bit shabby. Also the playground area is well kept. The sailing club area is a lovely amenity to have but the pot holes on the road leading down to it require attention, I know that this is not the responsibility of the Tidy Towns Committee but nevertheless it is a problem and one that should be addressed - by the County Council.

LITTER CONTROL

For such a busy town the control of litter is relatively good,

however, I did visit Clifden early afternoon mid week and most of the litter bins were overflowing. You should consider some form of plan to overcome this problem, perhaps involving the younger community.

TIDINESS

It would be better if the recycle bins could be placed a little more out of sight, also there was some litter in evidence around that area on adjudication day.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Again, a very good effort being made by individual premises. There are some beautiful houses on the approach roads leading into the town with lovely landscaped gardens.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The back of some of the premises on the way into Clifden from Ballyconneely are a bit of an eyesore and detracts from the overall landscape. The Galway approach road is very much improved. On the last occasion I adjudicated this town the Galway road was cluttered with caravans, I am glad to see that this problem no longer exists. There is still a certain amount of work to be done here. I would like to see some form of welcome signs on all of the approach roads, I did see one on the Letterfrack road but really I think at this stage it should be removed as it looked very shabby. – afterall Clifden is the capital of Connemara and visitors should know this when they are entering the town.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Overall, I think your committee are doing great work. You deserve your increased marks this year. I look forward to returning to your lovely town. I must also compliment you on your lovely promotional brochure. Keep up the good work and continued good luck with your plans.