

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BLACKROCK-LOUTH**
County : **LOUTH**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	24	23
Landscaping	40	28	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	18
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	198	189

Blackrock, County Louth

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Blackrock is welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. Congratulations on the new 'sun dial' sculpture, it is quite stunning. With the Cooley mountains as a backdrop across a view of Dundalk Bay, Blackrock enjoys an enviable location. Sailing boats in the bay, children playing on the beach and picnickers sitting on the sea wall endorsed Blackrock as an idyllic venue during our visit. We wish you well in gaining permission to improve the road junction as indicated on new sketch map.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The large building which forms the corner site of the Main Street and Sandy road is perhaps the most dominant building in the village visually speaking and should be presented to the highest of standards. Walls to the rear of the Neptune premises, together with the outhouse here should be maintained well whitewashed for the same reason. Most commercial properties are well presented especially those along the seafront.

LANDSCAPING

Stands of mature trees on the western entrance (from the 'Vivo' store on the main road) to the village are impressive, where these have been underplanted with shrubs. The western entrance from the Vivo shop is impressive with its expanse of grass. Do try to achieve a similar standard for the entrance from the 'Sextons' premises. The newly landscaped areas at the sculpture sundial will make a significant contribution to the main street as planting matures. The rosebeds in Violet Square are beautiful.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Well done on the Bird Life interpretive panel. The wetland habitat on the Dundalk approach to the village is another valuable wildlife heritage. Given so much development in Blackrock it is important to identify threats to wildlife and plan for its protection.

LITTER CONTROL

Well done on your litter removal programme. The village was almost litter free during adjudication which took place over a period of two days. We would be interested to know the results of the pilot scheme regarding the new bins for dog fouling.

TIDINESS

There was an ambience of tidiness in Blackrock during adjudication. Encourage the removal of all building materials upon completion of work and remind people to take care in the presentation of the curtilage areas to their

properties.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The number of new residential developments in Blackrock is breathtaking. All, of course, are presented to a very high standard. Development is still on-going and no doubt all will be finished and presented to a similar standard. The new Blackrock Cove Estate has been generously planted with trees and shrubs. The stone pillars marking the entrance together with the arrangement of large boulders are visually impressive. Boundary walls to residential properties at the 'northern' entrance to the village in many cases need upgrading.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The carpark was neatly presented during adjudication. Some of the retaining walls could be cleaned, painted or planted. The bottle banks are well placed. The Blackrock namestones are an attractive feature and complement the dry stone walls along stretches of approach roads. The Irish language namestones were much admired. The two service poles on the opposite side of the road to Violet Square look really bad and should be given priority when ducting is available. We look forward to the redevelopment of the road junction noted in your plan. Most street furniture was nicely presented.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It is always a pleasure to visit Blackrock whether for work or play and the day of adjudication was no exception. Well done on achievements to date.