

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CARLINGFORD**
County : **LOUTH**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	38
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	219	212

Carlingford, Co. Louth

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Few centres in the country can rival Carlingford's location, nestled between hill and seashore and the wonderful visual impact on entering the village. It is anticipated that the proposed housing development along the main road will complement the magnificent setting of the village. Developments at the new marina look promising. Thank you for your suggestion regarding an award to bring local farmers into the competition. It will be discussed at our next meeting. Well done on interpretive panels for cycling and touring routes, shore angling, walking and accommodation and services, all are well located and well maintained. The village appears to be retaining the best of what's old and, at the same time, moving forward boldly into the twenty first century. Carlingford will, undoubtedly, maintain a strong presence in the Tidy Towns Competition in the year's to come.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Jordan's townhouse and Restaurant is beautifully presented as always. Some properties nearby could be re-whitewashed. Some outbuildings, particularly in the environs of the Thomas D'Arcy McGee memorial need to be whitewashed. Most business properties are presented to a high standard. The fascia board of the Post Office and shop should feature a name. The stained glass windows in the Heritage Centre are a magnificent feature. Leavy's Centra Foodmarket and adjoining residential property are presented to the highest standards. Other well presented properties include the Terrace Restaurant / Belvedere House, all the Craft Shops, Carlingford Arms, the Village Hotel, the Oyster Catcher Bistro and many more. The schools are beautifully presented also as is the Quarry Banks development with its well laid out carparking spaces and neatly mown lawns.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping at the new Fire Station has matured beautifully and is a visual treat from the roadside. The village green picnic area was very much in use on the day of adjudication and was being much enjoyed. Some areas are a little patchy and need to be reseeded, particularly near the public toilets. The children's playground here is a nice facility. The graveyard / grounds of the Heritage Centre are being beautifully maintained. Container flower displays were much admired around the village.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The wildflower displays of approach roads and at the tennis court are breathtaking in their colour and beauty. The

foreshore area was very clean, well done! The dry bed of the stream along the mountain road was very lightly littered and some rubble was noted. Have you identified threats to wildlife and formulated plans for its protection / conservation. This is important with so much ongoing development.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was not as good as it could have been at the harbour near the Waterfront Adventure Centre. The litter was mostly of bottles and cans and mostly concentrated in the viewing area for the waterfront activities. No litter bins were noted in the Market Square, however it must be acknowledged that this area of the village was litter free. The litter bin at the 'Mint' heritage building was full and in danger of overflowing during our first visit.

TIDINESS

The sprayed weed growth in the viewing area near the Adventure Centre at the waterfront looked unsightly. This area would benefit from 'turning' and either reseeding with grass or by featuring a ground cover plant. Other grass verges in the immediate environs need to be upgraded also. The area around the bottle banks is being maintained beautifully, perhaps the bottle banks themselves, particularly the white one, could be cleaned a little more often, but otherwise, well done in this regard. The village has a lot of derelict buildings, no doubt with development pressures and the current economic climate, these won't remain derelict for very much longer.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Infill residential development beside the playground complement the overall architecture of the village. The new residential development in the cul-de-sac near the Health Centre is nicely finished and its imaginative sculpture with its hand prints are interesting. No doubt the apartment complex under construction will be finished to a standard that will complement the existing building stock and character of Carlingford. The white walls with the 'Tholsel Crafts' sign together with the walls of an adjacent residential property need to be re-whitewashed.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The seven fingered signpost located on the left on entering the village centre needs to be realigned and its post refurbished. Its green site could be reseeded. Some seating and a water pump on the north quay are in need of refurbishment. Are the old gas lamps here to be refurbished for use? There are wonderful scenic views of land and sea from both approach roads and the entrance under the bridge at St. Johns Castle makes a strong statement of having arrived someplace very special. The public toilets are both well presented and maintained, well done! The new street names look well and, of course, are

informative. It is good to note the undergrounding of overhead cables and the associated new lampstandards.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Carlingford is a beautiful village and an enjoyable venue for pleasure trips. The community area to be congratulated on the presentation of their village.