

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASTLEBLAYNEY**
County : **MONAGHAN**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	26
The Built Environment	40	24	23
Landscaping	40	20	18
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	7
Litter Control	40	19	19
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	159	147

Castleblayney, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the tidy towns competition again for the third year. Your committee of 10 is a sizable one and hopefully the plan which you submitted last year is forming the basis for developments. It would be helpful if each year you updated and presented the plan as progress can then be monitored against this plan and any alterations made can be incorporated and time scale adjusted. There is a considerable amount of work to be done in Castleblayney in order to arrive at the full potential of this town. There are many derelict buildings in need of attention and it is expected that this will be your focus in the near future. The problems associated with this are understandable.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The market house renovation is a key part of the developments as it is occupying such a prominent position in the town. There are many well presented and painted premises throughout the town especially on the main street and this gives a good lift to the main street. The number of buildings needing attention is significant and an inventory of all such buildings could be made so that a positive approach could be made to facing the issue. The Garda station looks very well as does the Health Board . The Church and cemetery on entrance from Carrickmacross look well and are well maintained. The Church of Ireland is an impressive building and the approach road with fine wall is notable as are the stone terraced houses with beautiful facades. The Credit Union is nicely painted. The bus shelter beside the carpark needs urgent attention. The main street looks well but some attention to paint on the green street lamps would be helpful.

LANDSCAPING

There are a number of nicely constructed landscaped areas. The rose borders around the carpark are attractive with the stone edging and grass verges. A lot more could be done with this carpark to make it more attractive. The seating area outside St. Mary's secondary school gives a nice touch. Containerised planting brighten up the streets in places and the window boxes at the Garda Station were noted. The planting at the approach to Irwin Tiles is well done and gives a good impression. The planting at the Glencairn Hotel shows that it is possible to incorporate planting even within the town centre. Street trees are all important and more street tree planting is recommended. On the Monaghan Road some tree planting has taken place and these are doing well. The screen planting by the concrete factory is very useful. The garden centre in the town adds to the landscape.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The lakeside and the Hope Castle area offer great potential. This is a lovely area with huge Lime trees and rolling grass down to the lakeside making lovely walks.

LITTER CONTROL

Good efforts are being made at litter control. There was some litter noted on the streets and the litter bins were well placed. Continual vigilance is needed to encourage people to take care of their litter. Tidy towns committees can take on many initiatives in this regard to help the situation.

TIDINESS

The main street has a well organised tidy appearance. The carpark, churches and Hope Castle and Market House give a tidy impression. As stated above the many buildings in need of attention detract from the tidiness and hopefully in time all this will be rectified. The Lyric building in particular conveys a very untidy appearance and some weedy kerbside areas are not helpful on some roads. When the buildings are renovated there will be a considerable uplift in the town as there is a lovely layout of streets.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are a considerable amount of residences within the town which is very welcome giving great life to the town. Residential premises are well kept and one can see the amount of pride people have by the way they look after their properties and their gardens, many individual houses on the approach roads contribute well by their well presented appearances. The stone terraced houses as mentioned above, leading to the Church Of Ireland are a lovely sight. Housing estates are well tended. Open greens and grass verges within and at the entrance to estates are well worth apprising for tree planting possibilities. Keeping an eye on the finish developers leave on housing development surrounds is all important as this effects the overall appearance of an estate.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach from the Carrickmacross side is welcoming with fine stretches of grass verges well maintained and boundaries in good condition. The Dundalk road has an attractive floral display and a magnificent green bank well maintained. The Monaghan road could be improved somewhat, the buildings are unhelpful on this road. Side streets and back lanes can all contribute to the appearance of a town and a good detailed plan will help to identify areas needing attention and an action plan can be put in place.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Castleblayney is set to make significant improvements. There is ample potential and with the enthusiasm and commitment of an active tidy towns committee great strides

are possible. There are many people and organisations required to make a contribution and motivation and energy commitment will be the essential ingredients of future success.