

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **WHITEGATE-CLARE**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 25-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21	23
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	19	18
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	19
General Impression	10	5	4
TOTAL MARK	300	168	164

Whitegate, Co.Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Again, minimal information was given on the entry form and no three year plan submitted and unfortunately marks have been lost in this category. However, the excellent map supplied and also the fact that there are eight members in the Committee would lead the Adjudicator to believe that this situation could be rectified. Whitegate has potential to do well in the Competition and the Committee should be putting the best case forward for the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church and grounds were very well presented as were the two Schools and Mc Dermott's Shop & Post Office. Of the many pubs in and around the village, the adjudicator found the following:- The Half Barrel Inn, with its rich red paintwork, was well presented. The Whitegate Inn could do with a touch up to their paintwork and J. Lucas's Pub was quite well presented – there is a very visible backyard to this pub which must be taken into consideration. The Nightingale Pub building on the loop road was well presented but the car park here was weedy and untidy with a huge plastic welcome sign broken in half. Also, other blue signage for the Nightingale in the car park and in the village is very tatty and needs replacing. As previously mentioned the plastic sign at Lucey's Foodstore is inappropriate for the village such as Whitegate and should be replaced. The main problem, of course, as mentioned in last years report is dereliction with three premises – one next to the Whitegate Inn, the thatched cottage at the road junction whose roof has fallen in, and also the premises opposite the housing estate. These are very visible and a strategy must be put in place (in conjunction with the County Council) to find a solution to this problem. The last premises mentioned is actually for sale and hopefully, if purchased, will be renovated to a high standard. Nearly derelict, is the old church which is also very prominent in the village. This premises is also deteriorating with quite a number of slates off the roof. Well kept good stone walls were noted throughout the village. The houses at the RIC scheme need to be upgraded.

LANDSCAPING

When mentioning the RIC scheme, no doubt the success of obtaining customers for these is somewhat dependent on their surroundings. Whilst the actual RIC compound was looking quite well, the area outside the gate was weeding and untidy – the nearby pier at the lake was overgrown and the lakeside area in general underdeveloped here. The roundabout at Williamstown Harbour is still overgrown with briars coming out on to the road. In the village, the landscaped area at the road junction was well maintained and pleasant. The gates and fences at GAA grounds were nicely painted – however, the whole area here still needs attention. The planted entrance to the new estate with the pump feature was admired. On the loop road, the area with the old farm machinery was

also admired.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

No projects were shown on the entry form. In view of the lakeside situation of Whitegate there is an opportunity for same – why not get the school children involved?

LITTER CONTROL

There was no evidence of litter on the day – well done.

TIDINESS

Except for the items mentioned under landscaping the village was mostly neat and tidy with no kerbside weeds

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private houses were mostly well maintained throughout and in some cases were exceptional. Seven new houses are being built at the centre of the village, bringing in new blood – no doubt you will be encouraging these new residents to join you in your efforts.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Work was in progress on the Portumna road during Adjudication. Good paths (well maintained) were noted throughout the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Whitegate is a charming village. In regards to the various problems outlined in the report, the Committee will have to assert themselves in a stronger manner in order to try to alleviate and eliminate these.

We wish you well in the future!