

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CULDAFF**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	--
The Built Environment	40	28	--
Landscaping	40	25	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	--
Litter Control	40	31	--
Tidiness	20	14	--
Residential Areas	30	17	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	--
General Impression	10	7	--
TOTAL MARK	300	180	--

Culdaff, County Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Unfortunately a programme for development was not submitted again this year and the inactivity of the committee and villages alike is a terrible pity. You have a lovely village with great potential to develop further. If you can at least create a 3 to 5 year development plan, with achievable target dates set for each project, it may be the spur you need to reactivate your committee. It would certainly enable you to better plan your resources and make it more likely that objectives will be met. Sadly points have been lost here.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Overhead cables do detract from an otherwise pleasant village. Perhaps a feasibility study into underground ducting could be carried out. Again, there is no record of developmental improvements that may have taken place in the village and next year's application should consider this. It is a useful way of measuring progress for yourselves also. There are four buildings listed for demolition and it is hoped that this work will be carried out in the near future. There is a building being repainted opposite the entrance to Culdaff House which is to be commended. There is great potential to make a feature of the old mill. This could be considered and renovated into a very attractive landmark. The school would also benefit from painting. The boundary wall is not in great condition but the footpath is fine and important for safety. McGroary's restaurant is very well appointed – a good bold colour. The large building beside FÁS is derelict and the area would definitely benefit from replacement or renewal. St. Buadan's church is very pleasant. If the existing village hall and the large house beside it were to be demolished, a good opportunity would arise to create a focal point on the village green - as long as the scale and sensitivity of the architecture are appropriate to the village.

LANDSCAPING

The lush grass of the main green was admired along with the two benches and four very mature trees. The white- washed kerb stone is an attractive feature. The traditional water pump with a roof over it on the green also adds to very agreeable focal point. Some very good planting around some of the fields and houses was noted.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It looks like there would be plenty of potential for pleasant nature walks within the village. I do hope you will look into developing a strategy under this heading.

LITTER CONTROL

The village of Culdaff is very tidy, and very little litter was observed on the day of

adjudication. Sadly, two election posters, from the general election, were still up on telegraph poles, along the Carndonagh Road.

TIDINESS

The streets generally are quite tidy. There are a number of caravans on the right hand side, coming in from Carndonagh which could be tidied up. The field just after the post office, on the left could be tidied as a caravan there makes it a little unsightly. The old tractor outside the mill needs either to be made a feature or removed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses around the green are well maintained with white-washed stone walls and planting and mature trees beyond that. It was noted that FÁS has taken over the main hall here which is in need of renovation. One of the houses facing onto the green has a lot of weeds growing out of its chimney pots. The houses in the area (near the mill and school) are well kept and gardens well planted. A white washed house with a stone porch facing onto the car park (opposite McGroarys) is in very good condition and was noted. A housing estate out the Glengad Road is in moderately good condition. The area on the right hand side preceding the estate was very over-grown and would benefit from landscaping.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road to the school is not in great condition and would benefit from attention although the footpath is fine and the hedge is well maintained. The roads (around the green) would benefit from resurfacing. The pavement in front of the hall is in need of attention as is the road gutter. The car park opposite McGroary's restaurant is well laid out with fine kerb stones and planting between. It might benefit from a few small trees rather than the low level planting. It was noted that the car park also benefits from speed bumps. There are very fine dry stone walls around the village. The grass verges on the Carndonagh Road could be cut back.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

If the desire is there, Culdaff has the potential to go a long way in this competition.