

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CAHERSIVEEN**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	30	31
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	205	202

Caherciveen, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Caherciveen enjoys a superb location with access to river, sea and surrounding hills. The town is beautifully presented at both its entrances along the N70 but is presented less well in the centre. Its location on a hill sweeping down to the waterfront, gives it the advantage of panoramic seascapes. In addition to being located along a major road, the town has interesting narrow, winding streets and boasts a handsome building stock with a variety of architectural styles. The community is obviously aware of its heritage. Caherciveen is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As noted above, the town centre is less well presented than it is at entrances. This is because many properties are in need of refurbishment. One of the first tasks for the committee is to get a commitment from property owners to the presentation of their buildings. All public buildings should be presented to a standard that would encourage private property owners to follow. A number of public buildings were noted that were in need of attention, for example both the Health Centre, the Community Centre and the public toilet. Stress the importance of gable walls also to property owners, as many had well presented roadside façades but poorly presented gable walls. The St. Anne's Hospital complex looked well, particularly in respect of its roadside boundary treatment, however the wall that hosts its sign needs to be refurbished. Walls and buildings on O'Connell Street need particular attention. There were many well presented shopfronts and Teach Culainn is being considered for the Best Irish Shopfront Award.

LANDSCAPING

Caherciveen boasts beautifully landscaped entrances to the town and the St. Brendan's Sculpture was particularly admired. The grounds of the Abbey of the Holy Cross were very much admired also. The hard surfaced amenity area which makes up the civic space at the Tourist Office on the Main Street could have been presented to a higher standard. The Daniel O'Connell Park development was particularly admired, well done on this wonderful amenity. The waterfront amenity area is a valuable asset and the view of this part of the town on approaching from the bridge forms another excellent first impression of Caherciveen. The marina, the waterfront amenity park, the Daniel O'Connell Park and other amenities should be signposted from the town centre.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Being located so close to so many natural amenities,

Caherciveen can boast many wildlife habitats in its environs. A survey of habitats might be undertaken and a campaign promoting the awareness of wildlife organised. Local walks should be identified and signposted to Slí na Sláinte standards with details displayed in the town centre for visitors.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was less good this year than in previous years, litter was noted at a number of locations. However, marks have not been lost yet because of the Caherciveen Youth Club Environmental Awareness Project on Video, however if a similar standard of litter control is presented next year, marks could be lost. Litter was noted in the following locations: on the roadside edge coming in from the Valentia road, at the Market House, along New Market Street, at Bowlers Centra, on the Quay. Some litter bins were full to overflowing on the Main Street and in the adjudicator's opinion there are too few litter bins. Some of the bins were in need of refurbishment.

TIDINESS

Derelict sites and buildings were noted at several locations around the town. This probably presents the greatest challenge to the committee in the coming years. An untidy lane located opposite the public toilet on Bridge Street was noted. Untidy sites and buildings predominated along Reenrusheen road. Old Market Street was also the location of many derelict buildings, as was the western end of the town. The Recycling Centre is located quite far from the town which will make it difficult for people without cars to use this facility.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Roadside boundary walls to residential properties on Carheen road, in many instances, were in need of improvement. The Woodbrook Estate was quite well presented, however there was still some room for improvement here. Residential developments located at the end of Old Market Street also looked well but again the same point can be made in respect of roadside boundary walls. There were many beautifully presented gardens on the outskirts of the town.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The newly surfaced road and footpath marking the entrance to the town from the Valentia road was noted. Hopefully roadside edges in the centre will receive attention in the not too distant future. Wirescape should also be ducted when footpaths and roads are being resurfaced. As noted above, in many instances litter bins were in need of refurbishment and amenity areas should be signposted from the town centre.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Caherciveen is favourable, particularly at its entrances and, of course, its amenity areas. The biggest problem facing the committee over the coming years lies in the presentation of the built environment and

tidiness in relation to derelict sites and derelict buildings.