

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BLACKROCK-LOUTH**  
County : **LOUTH**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	30
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>198</b>

## **Blackrock, County Louth**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH**

The judges were impressed by the action-oriented information that was included with the application form. Many thanks for the plan and also for the map. Blackrock has a long approach and this must make it quite difficult to motivate people to attend to the various tasks. There is a wonderful vista over the sea to the mountains of Mourne and the promenade makes the most of this.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Generally the buildings were well maintained and presented. Sextons pub on the main road looked well – has the bypass affected business though. The AOH hall really needs attention – this is a building of architectural significance and should not be allowed to fall into disrepair. Is it in use? The red geraniums contrasted nicely with the blue shutters on the Neptune. The Clermont Arms, Bayview Inn (wonderful baskets) were two of the best presented on the seafront. Take care as to maintain the older shopfronts in keeping with the tradition of a seaside town. The Garda Station would benefit from some baskets or colour. Rock Celtic FC looked well and the carpark was clean and devoid of litter. The area outside the Vivo shop was untidy and needed attention.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The promenade area with the most impressive sundial creates a wonderful impression. The promenade was thronged with people on the day of adjudication with people walking and enjoying the rare summer sun. The planting sponsored by Haggardstown GC provides some good advertising for them and will look better as it matures. Incidental planting on lamppost beds and tubs created a summer image. Is the stone sea wall opposite the Bayview being replaced? All the premises along the seafront should be encouraged to display some planters and perhaps a general colour theme could be considered.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The interpretative panel looked well and it is nice to see the use of a local artist rather than printed material. The seashore and the saltmarsh areas are important and are great amenities for both inhabitants of Blackrock and visitors. Has the village considered striving for a blue flag award? This certainly would put the village on the map and would encourage a monitoring system of the cleanliness of the water and the seafront area.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

The dog fouling campaign is an excellent idea as this is the

bane of many seaside towns. The village was reasonably free of litter though blackspots included around Vivo and at Sarsfield Gardens. A litterbin also at Sarsfield Gardens requires refurbishment or replacement.

### **TIDINESS**

The recycling facilities down by the toilets were noted. It is hoped that they are used by all in the village. Regular cleanups have paid off and it is good to note that you involve the school children. It is also commendable that you have isolated the black spots and problem areas in the village and intend to tackle them in the future.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Many of the houses in the Blackrock area have an affluent air and are very well maintained with nice gardens. New housing was also noted and this hopefully will add to the village in the future. There was nice landscaping at the entrance to Beechpark. The area beside Rathmount contrasted starkly with the neatness of the estate. St. Furseys Terrace looked well.

### **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

There are long approaches to the village and the welcome stones and planting were impressive as well as linking the village together. Road surfaces were not good in many areas and need upgrading.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Blackrock is a pleasant village which has the potential to do very well. Your plans for the future if implemented will ensure that the village continues to progress in the competition. Well done and good luck with your plans.