

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SWINFORD**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12
Landscaping	40	24
The Built Environment	40	27
Litter Control	40	25
Tidiness	20	9
Residential Areas	30	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	169

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

There is a great effort being made in relation to the development of key town features. Your committee is quite small - 7 people for a Town of 1300. You need more support ! One developmental aspect which you should consider is the problem with double parking. This seems to bring the town to a standstill, despite the fact that there are parking spaces free. This problem can be very frustrating for anyone visiting the town. You need to consider engaging a traffic warden in the town to tackle this problem effectively.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There were no projects submitted under this category. You could consider developing the stream opposite Sancta Maria as a wildlife area.

LANDSCAPING

There was a good presentation of landscape areas and maintenance along approach roads was of a high standard. The planting opposite the Church and lower Main Street looks very well. The planting at Davitt Place was well-kept and tidy. You could consider planting trees on the open space at Sancta Maria, and fencing planted with some hedging. There were great displays of windowboxes throughout the town which was very good to see on a fine summers day. The church grounds were excellently presented, but there are some weeds at the entrance which detracts from this area. The Kilkealy road looked well but could do with some tree planting.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Main street looked very well on adjudication day, in particular the Heather Lodge, AIB, Bank of Ireland and Mr. Chips looked particularly well. Very few shopfronts have retained plastic signage. There was some dereliction along the circular road which should be tackled. O Haras on Park Road was well maintained. Some street signs would be a great addition to the town. Overall, there is good progress, but you should try to encourage owners of derelict sites to do something with these areas. Perhaps the County Council could help you in this regard.

LITTER CONTROL

There was some litter visible along main street, though there is a marked improvement on last years adjudication. There was very little litter along Church Street, but there was litter visible at the Kilkeely end of Park Road.

TIDINESS

The town is maintained to a reasonable standard. The main problem area appears to be weedy kerbs along Church street, the Ball Alley past Davitt Place, and along Brookville Avenue. This should be attended to as it detracts from your good efforts.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses along the Dublin road were well maintained. Brabazon Heights looked well though you should try to do something with the open space on the right hand side. The open spaces along Oak Drive were only roughly mown and kerbs were weedy. There was a lot of new planting in gardens which was good to see. Along Park Road, the margins require mowing. The boundary walls along circular road need attention, particularly near Chapel street. Some houses opposite the Church need painting. The grounds of Aras Attracta were very well kept.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the Dublin road approach, the fence opposite the Esso station should be replaced and some planting along here would be good. The cleaning of the Ballina road railway bridge is an excellent improvement. The trees and new planting were also well presented. Some planting on the hill opposite would also be good. The yard in front of the railway bridge is an eyesore and you should persevere in your efforts to clean up this area. The approach from Kiltimagh is well maintained and the new tree planting looks well. The mart boundary is quite weedy and should be cleaned up.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There has been a good improvement in the town on last year. Litter is reasonably under control but weedy kerbs are still a problem. There is still some dereliction in the town which is a problem. Again, you need to sort out the traffic problem in the town, particularly double parking.