

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 25-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	28	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	11
Litter Control	40	20	26
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	15	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	20
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	179	176

Swinford, County Mayo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Swinford is welcome to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed entry form. The town has a mixed standard in presentation this year. There has been an increase in marks under some headings, but a major decrease in marks under Litter Control. Hopefully this situation will be improved upon for next year regarding the litter control. Swinford is a beautiful town, with beautiful streetscapes, a lot of good council work as well as input from private property owners. There is no reason that the town can't be very successful in the competition; it has all the ingredients. We look forward to hearing more details regarding the woodland development and seeing perhaps a walk developed from the town through the woodlands and back to the town, perhaps detailing the natural flora and fauna of the woods. Thank you for your continued participation; we look forward to visiting your town again in future years.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Bank of Ireland premises is presented to the highest standard; well done. Perhaps they might consider investing in two new flags to replace the existing ones which are quite tatty in appearance. The three main streets of the town look very well being free of wirescape and their associated ugly service poles and having an orderly arrangement of carparking. The cobble trim along the roadside edge differentiating between the car parking spaces and the public road is most attractive. Young trees planted along the main street are maturing well. Buildings in general are quite well maintained and many have their original or traditional features. A number appear to have replacement windows at second floor level with the sash windows on the third floor. The colour scheme of the three main streetscapes are attractive. A number of properties, however, are still in need of cleaning and / or painting.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping to the roadside edge of the Co-op Mart is the best this adjudicator has seen anywhere in the country. All Co-op Marts seen to date have unattractive roadside frontages; well done to whoever is responsible for this. The beautifully landscaped frontage to the church on entering from the N5 together with its site which commands attention are important elements of the townscape. Incidental landscaped areas around the town were much admired in addition to the well landscaped grounds of many properties. The shrubs in landscaped areas around the carpark do not appear to be establishing themselves very well and will need to be replanted, however young trees here are beginning to mature

nicely.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Perhaps a signposted walk could be developed to the Famine Graveyard. Now that the local woods are being cleaned and are to be opened for walks, there is an important opportunity presented for a wildlife project based on a woodland habitat theme. Refer to the new Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas and advice.

LITTER CONTROL

There was quite a lot of litter dumped in the corner of the carpark opposite 'Marylin Court'. In addition there was a scattering of litter around the town, which is a situation that definitely has to be improved.

TIDINESS

'Conlan's' Garage at the bridge is a bit of a disappointment at this area of the town as is the car wreck at the footpath just beyond the bridge. Some derelict properties which can be viewed from the car park are a problem under this heading. There was a serious problem of tidiness at the recycling point in the carpark. Bags left beside the containers (which are obviously not being emptied frequently enough) had birds picking at them.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The sculpture at the entrance to Bollingbrook Drive is a nice touch. Well done. These, together with the neatly maintained and landscaped areas look great. The new residential development being constructed just off the Killasser / Curry Road looks promising. Don't forget to have all building materials removed upon completion from the road frontage and feature a nicely landscaped entrance. Many roadside boundary walls to residential properties in the environs of the VTOS Adult Education Centre and the entrance to the Swinford District Hospital were in need of cleaning and / or painting and repairs. A new residential development on a site beside the Garda Station hopefully will be finished to a high standard on this important entrance to the town.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The new footpaths and road frontages to both residential and commercial sites along the Ballinagh entrance to the town together with the view of the bridge at the beginning of the town centre create a very good first impression of Swinford. The Killasser / Curry Road affords a fine scenic view of the town and the hills beyond. The wire and post fencing along the Killasser / Curry Road could be planted with a mixture of beech and hawthorn hedgerow for greater enclosure and a

footpath should be developed along this road to serve the new residential development. The carpark itself was neatly surfaced and lined, however the barriers leave a lot to be desired. The minimum here is that they should be kept rust free and well painted, however the entrance could be made look much more attractive, perhaps with some wrought iron or other embellishment. This is particularly appropriate when the town has an engineering enterprise (McDonnells Engineering) which specialises in this type of product. Many litter bins need to be cleaned.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Well done on a good overall presentation and good luck for the future. We look forward to visiting Swinford again.