

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LIFFORD**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12
Landscaping	40	24
The Built Environment	40	30
Litter Control	40	18
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	170

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

As last years report called for, it is essential that you break up into sub committees and form an action plan. This plan will put before your community an agenda for cohesion and for improvement and is highly recommended as an approach. If Lifford is to proceed, it will take all of the community effort combined with all of the commercial interests, the resources of FAS and the County Council etc. to bring together the various elements and achieve success. That as said, the infrastructure within Lifford and its importance as a gateway to Donegal cannot be gainsaid and has all the ingredients to make it a far more active place.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a category in which you can do better. The Finn and The Mourne Rivers joining together in the centre of the town in such a strategic location offer you an opportunity to develop a wildlife interest within the town. This should not be a prettified place but rather an interesting eco - friendly area which will garner extra marks for you in years to come in the competition.

LANDSCAPING

There was a nice flower bed noted on the Letterkenny approach road. An untidy green open space mitigated against the nice trees planted in the green area on the left. Lovely flower beds and shrubbery beds were noted in other areas of the town especially the roundabout on the Letterkenny approach. The Coneyburrow Estate, while very nicely presented, did need grass trimming. Nice private houses were noted on the Castlefin approach. Generally, Lifford offers plenty of potential for further landscaping in strategic areas.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment of Lifford, the attractive Courthouse, the new County Council Offices and various other public buildings combine to make it a particularly interesting town, for this you are to be congratulated. It is essential that you get all of the commercial interests of the town on your side and that they improve their buildings in keeping with the plan that is proposed in the opening remarks. It was good to note the bottle banks in place this year, a further step in the right direction.

LITTER CONTROL

It was good to note that you have in place a litter campaign. Unfortunately on the day of adjudication it does not appear to have been necessarily working. Flyposting, lots of litter, untidy areas around litter bins etc. all contributed to a negative effect. It is essential that you treat this issue positively and insure that the County Council put in place litter bins and follow through with collection.

TIDINESS

With a litter problem, tidiness is very hard to achieve! In addition to the remarks under litter, untidy back lanes, grass verges - not as tidy as they might be, areas of weeds in gutters and roadsides etc. contributed generally to a reasonably untidy area. In addition the flyposting problem noted last year remains an issue, this again should be dealt with.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residential areas are responding very well to your efforts. The Coneyburrow and the Croghan Heights areas are to be congratulated on the efforts they have made. Also the nice terraced area within the town centre itself presented very well. Well done to the residents here!

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads generally left something to be desired. There was unkempt grass verges again and indifferent lay-by presentation. Untidy back lanes were a feature particularly in the area of the Lifford Visitor Centre. The Citizen Information Centre also was untidily presented.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Lifford as already remarked has the infrastructure to do well. It is important that you appreciate your vernacular architecture, exploit it with good landscaping and planting, keep your streetscapes tidy and clean and ensure that all of the community, commercial, business, Local Authority and residents come together to support your efforts. Make a plan, call a meeting, present it to them and then things will progress well.