

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **AHASCRAUGH**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11
Landscaping	40	20
The Built Environment	40	21
Litter Control	40	20
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	149

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the Tidy Towns Competition and I hope involvement in the Competition will help you improve the local environment for locals and visitors alike. Marks in this competition are hard gained, as you will have noticed from the Adjudication Criteria Summary. You have not submitted a work programme to cover the next 3/5 years. A long term plan with specific annual targets is necessary.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As hinted above, the Adjudicator has to work within stated boundaries. Your Committee has not listed any information on Wildlife. May we suggest you contact the area Environmental Officer or some other competent person to advise you on how best to gather information on the habitats of animals, birds and wild flowers in your area. Maybe this project could be entrusted to Teachers and pupils in the School. A detailed Map of the exact location of works completed or in progress would have been welcomed.

LANDSCAPING

The new Village Signs are original and most impressive. But the areas past the signs are overgrown. Your FAILTE GO ATH EASCRACH with the stone based flower containers looks very well. The Caltra approach has been cut and the stone wall restoration and footpath is to be commended. However, weed control is necessary. Indeed the overgrown area could be planted with shrubs and would immediately enhance the appearance. In the centre of the Village, the colourful flowers on the island at the base of the old style lighting was excellent. The planting of shrubs and trees on the road leading from the Tyre Centre to the Church probably looked very well at one stage, but it is now overgrown and needs attention.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Your Village is dominated by the Mill which is a potential top class amenity. Any plans for developing this landmark? In any development please ensure there is suitable access for the disabled. The Grotto was well presented. The School was nicely painted. Dilapidated building alongside looks very untidy. The Church was neat and tidy. The entrance to Ahascragh Soccer Club is spoiled with weeds and high grass - a project for the Members! The Garda Station needs some attention. The Water Pump could be brightly painted and decorated with flower planting. Among the business premises, Twibills, and Brennans Garage, has an untidy appearance and MNC Foodstore and The Circle Lounge would benefit from a fresh coat of paint. Congratulations to Liam Kellys, Cahills Bar, Connollys, Katie Dalys, Frankies Lounge and Kittys Hair Salon.

LITTER CONTROL

There was evidence of litter in the village despite the new bins. You are to be commended for your School awareness programme. Have you considered a Junior Tidy Towns Committee of younger people with a few specific tasks.

TIDINESS

First impressions are important. Therefore, anything that detracts from the overall view must be tackled. The seemingly little things make a big difference.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A key factor in the 1996 Adjudication Criteria is the involvement of the entire community in caring for the environment. Encouragement to home owners to concentrate on their own properties is essential. You already have that support by the £10.00 per home contribution and £100.00 from business premises.

This is a most unique expression of community solidarity and worthy of the highest commendation. There are some excellent individual efforts but definite room for improvement in residential areas.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Generally the road surface is of a high standard. Attention to the margins on approach roads is necessary. Also weed control at kerbsides and wall bases. No need to identify the location of derelict buildings. Keep pressure on the County Council. There is a Derelict Sites Act!

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Firstly, many congratulations on your achievements so far. Your stone wall restoration, new footpaths and additional floral displays are a joy. Your tree planting will pay rich dividends. As this is your first entry to Tidy Towns may we suggest you take a closer look at the section entitled "Sources of Help" on page 20 of the Tidy Towns information Booklet. The future is looking bright for Ahascragh. Continue the good work.