

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **GORT**  
County : **GALWAY**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12
Landscaping	40	22
The Built Environment	40	21
Litter Control	40	20
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>155</b>

## **Adjudicator's Comments**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

You have not submitted a 3/5 year Plan detailing your work programme. For maximum effect you need to take an overall approach have a specific targets. Then you can decide what is achievable on a year to year basis. It would be beneficial to have close contacts with the County Council and other bodies. Also seek advise from your Regional Tourism Representative.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The new Adjudication Criteria place emphasis on the conservation of wildlife and natural amenities. Could you seek the help of your local Environmental Officer, or some other competent person, who would advise you on gathering information on the local habitats of animals and birds and the identification of wild flowers. This could be a project undertaken by Teachers and pupils in the local School. You are so fortunate to have such a wonderful natural amenity as Coole Park, with its nature trails, walks, a lake and turlough.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The tree planting on the Limerick/Gort approach is pleasant and maturing nicely. The planted area at the Community School is imaginative and adds great colour. A development like this is most heartening as it educates our youth and makes them aware of the need to care for the environment. Give some consideration to the provision of floral decoration at the base of town and directional signs. The area opposite the Texaco Garage is well maintained. The tree planting at Circular Road looked very attractive.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Gort Crane House looked well with floral decoration but the chain railing was broken. Sadly the Public Toilet (Gents) was in a disgraceful condition with most offensive graffiti. Surely this could be painted over. Just imagine the impression given to tourists. The Market Square could be considerably brightened up. ODonnells Traditional Bar was nicely presented with hanging baskets, in contrast to the drabness of the AIB Bank and The Archway Tavern. OShaughnessys would also benefit from some floral decoration. Dicey Reillys Bar had a very attractive facade, as had Kilroys on the opposite side of the street. The Silver Spruce B&B had seating outside and the flower containers were nice. Pigots was well presented as were Hartes Pub and Collins Confectionery. Sullivans Royal Hotel, occupying such a prominent position, would be enhanced with some floral decoration. The Bank of Ireland was well presented and looked neat and tidy, as did Gerry Walshs Lounge. The South Galway Community Leisure Club also looked well but would benefit from some hanging baskets, window boxes etc. The Old School, at a main junction and now derelict, is an eyesore, with broken windows, high grass etc. Pressure must be kept on the appropriate body to tidy up this building.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

The litter bins painted green and gold around the Square were very attractive, but litter was scattered around the area. Part of the answer is education, especially talks in the local schools, on care for the environment.

### **TIDINESS**

We were very pleased to see the Recycling facilities, as the disposal of cans, bottles, etc. is a need in every town. For the sake of the environment it is important that materials be recycled. While the recycling containers were clearly visible and in a prominent position, we did not see any signs indicating this facility. Another area that needs attention is the growth of weeds at kerb sides at the base of boundary walls and in other areas. You must also keep an eye on fly posting as this detracts from the

overall presentation of your Town.

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A key factor in the Adjudication Criteria for 1996 is evidence that the whole community is involved in caring for the environment. Just imagine if each homeowner provided just ONE hanging basket or window box! What a transformation would take place. Generally, the private homes in your area are well presented but there is always room for improvement.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Galway approach road is well presented but attention has to be paid to weeds growing at the base of the wall. The Limerick/Gort approach has grass, weeds and nettles growing. The open area needs attention also. It is also important to encourage private homeowners to keep weeds at boundary walls under control. The Bridge is badly in need of a fresh coat of paint and the ivy growing around the bridge itself should be removed.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

It is a pity that more support is not forthcoming from the community in Gort. You are well aware of the problems to be tackled and to make your task a little easier we have refrained from mentioning premises that are in urgent need of re-painting. You have also a problem with derelict sites. Keep pressure on the County Council if no co-operation is forthcoming from owners. Town & Directional signs need to be re-painted also. Keep up the good work and I hope you will get more co-operation from the local community who have most to gain from any improvements in the Town.