

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LAWRENCETOWN**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11
Landscaping	40	22
The Built Environment	40	21
Litter Control	40	20
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	149

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

You have not submitted a 3/5 Year Programme of Work for your Village. A long term approach is necessary so that you can plan targets on a year to year basis. Marks in the Tidy Towns Competition are difficult to gain, so lack of information on Wildlife, Landscaping and Built Environment deprives you of substantial marks.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Could you obtain the services of your area Environmental Officer, or some other competent person, who could advise you on gathering information on the local habitats of animals and birds as well as identifying wild flowers. This could be a project undertaken by Teachers and Pupils in the local School. More could be done to research the classical design of your village and the famine victims buried at the old Graveyard.

LANDSCAPING

First impressions are lasting and it is worthwhile to pay attention to approach roads. In previous reports mention was made of the necessity to clean the Village sign on the Portumna approach. This is not a major task, yet no action was taken. An additional "Welcome to Lawrencetown" sign suitably decorated with planted flowers in a stone surround would be an immense improvement and give a positive message to visitors. Imaginative planting of shrubs on the Ballinasloe approach is delightful. Great attention needs to be given to open areas. There were magnificent shrubs and manicured lawn on the Ballinasloe approach road.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The burnt out shell of P. Mitchells, certainly detracts from the overall picture of the Village. There are other derelict buildings and pressure should be put on the County Council to enforce the Derelict Sites. The Health Centre was defaced with graffiti in blue paint. Could this not be painted over? The School was neat and tidy but would benefit from some floral decoration. The area where the Pump is situated was very untidy and this should be an outstanding feature. Alongside by the kerb there empty spirit bottles and cans - but no litter bin. The Church & Cemetery looked well. The Village Hall was also nicely presented but a pile of rubbish lay in a corner of the car park. The Post Office was neat and tidy. Cogavins, Pardys Lounge, though neat, would be greatly enhanced by some flowers. Attention could be given to Carrs Tyres and Fords Newsagents. The Village would be transformed if each business premises could be encouraged to play a part in re-painting and decorating.

LITTER CONTROL

On the day of adjudication there was plenty of evidence of litter. On the approach near the School, paper was strewn all along. Litter also on the Ballinasloe approach and the Crescent area.

TIDINESS

Have you contemplated a Recycling facility? Residents could be encouraged to deposit their bottles, papers, etc. here. Eternal vigilance is needed to combat weeds. Encourage home owners to keep their boundary walls weed free.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A key factor in the adjudication criteria for 1996 is evidence that the entire community is involved in caring for the environment. One kind of participation is the adornment of individual properties. If each homeowner could be persuaded to provide one item of floral decoration - a hanging basket, window box,

shrub, tree - what a difference it would make. There are good examples of this being done and those homeowners are to be congratulated.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Generally, the roads are of a good standard. But it is vital that approaches are properly maintained and high grass cut. There was evidence that this work is in hand and your difficulties are certainly appreciated.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is plenty of evidence of work ongoing - new footpaths, tree and shrub planting etc. The street furniture, especially at Gavins Shop, looked very well. The FAS Scheme, beginning in August, will improve the area and further enhance the attraction of the Village. You are doing an excellent job and will be rewarded for your effort. May we suggest you have a further look at the Tidy Towns Booklet, page 20 Sources of Help.