

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LETTERFRACK**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21
Landscaping	40	26
The Built Environment	40	24
Litter Control	40	28
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	186

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your forward planning information was excellent and demonstrated the high degree of participation by the total community in your area. Of particular interest was your contribution on the rich wildlife in your area. You are to be complimented on your planning for the next two years. I have no doubt you will achieve your target. The visual amenity plus the provision of seats and tables will further enhance an already picturesque village crossroads.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Collating information on the wildlife in your area will be of benefit. Information on the habitats of animals and birds as well as the identification of wild flowers will be welcomed by locals and visitors alike. Having the National Park in your Village and the services of Gerry O'Donnell to assist in collating the information on wildlife is a tremendous asset. The staff at the Connemara National Park deserve the gratitude of all for providing a wildlife Paradise and a fountain of information.

LANDSCAPING

The Town Sign and Welcome to Letterfrack with the stone face immediately communicated to the visitor that this is a special place - and so it is! The Village crossroads with the excellent signposts in such an attractive setting is delightful. The provision of floodlighting is to be commended. Unfortunately the Renvyle By the Sea advertising board needs refurbishment. This sign was described as scruffy in last years Report. Generally the landscaping is excellent - but there is always room for improvement.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The majority of your buildings are well presented. The improvement at the Garda Barracks was noted. You are to be commended for pursuing the County Council for advice on derelict buildings. The Yellow House on the Tullycross Road would certainly benefit from a fresh coat of paint. We understand it is a private house but a most important one as it was formerly the Quaker Temperance Hotel. Near the old and new Churches stands a red roofed building - the old coal sheds. Delighted to hear that the property was recently purchased by an English Lady who, in conjunction with the daughter of Mr Des O'Malley, proposes to convert it into a Theatre. The Post Office, Bards Den and Mollys Bar were most attractive. I hope the intriguing story of the arrival of James Ellis and his part in the development of Letterfrack will be more widely known and your plans for a Museum at the Court House deserve every success and assistance.

LITTER CONTROL

Lots of activity in Letterfrack on the day of adjudication but the Village was practically litter free. Plenty of litter bins certainly encourages their use.

TIDINESS

Evidence of overgrowth on approach roads. The area between the rear of Connemara West and the Church needed attention. We were informed that the matter would be dealt with on Monday 24th June. The area around the bilingual sign was overgrown. The sign Connemara National was obscured.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Obviously the residents of Letterfrack take a collective pride in presenting their Village in the best light. Nicely painted homes with various forms of floral decoration abound. As always, there were minor exceptions, but I am sure these will be prevailed upon to raise the standard.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

As it is the function of the County Council to care for roads, your Committee should keep up the pressure in relation to improvement of the road surfaces please keep in mind always the access needs of the disabled.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It is no surprise that Letterfrack is regraded as European Leaders in community development. It is evident that all sectors in the community are involved in making the village most attractive for locals and visitors alike. A mine of information on the locality, its wildlife and historic buildings is available. Here is the home of Community Radio daily broadcasting news to the area voluntarily. Most exciting is the realisation that Letterfrack is unique in being a Village founded by the Quakers in 1846. Letterfrack is delightful and an example to every Town and Village in the country. A united community with a common purpose