

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **LOUGHREA**  
County : **GALWAY**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20
Landscaping	40	26
The Built Environment	40	22
Litter Control	40	22
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>184</b>

## **Adjudicator's Comments**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the comprehensive and most interesting details of your overall Development Plans for Loughrea and also for the details of work present being undertaken. Your close association with the County Council and other influential Bodies is a sure formula for success.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Your restoration work at the Horsepond is to be commended particularly as it enables the public to observe birdlife in the area. The pictorial Information Board must surely encourage further interest and will be much appreciated. You may have an opportunity to plant berry bearing shrubs to supplement the feeding available for birds even though they have a wide choice of menu on the Lake! You have considerably developed your natural amenities.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The new boundary wall at the Fair Green will be superb, affording a great view over the Green. Your plan to repaint fixtures in the Play area will further enhance this facility. Is there need for extra litter bins here? Long Point was bathed in sunshine on the day of adjudication and it was marvellous to see this amenity being enjoyed by so many. You are constantly beautifying this area and both locals and visitors are in your debt. The variety of shrubs and young trees, the attractiveness of the entire area and the excellent provision of facilities in the Public Toilets are a credit to all. All the approach roads to Loughrea give a message to visitors that this is a caring Town and deserving of further investigation. The tubs at the Loughrea signs and the stone planters at the Welcome to Loughrea signs were very beautiful. The unusual hanging baskets at the Fair Green were very attractive. The car park off Main Street looked delightful with the flowers encased in a stone surround. The Walks is a superb amenity nicely kerbed and with a great tarmacadam surface. There was evidence of litter here and maybe some extra litter bins would help. We visited the Estates and observed the implementation of your landscape plan. The combined effort of your Tidy Towns Committee, Galway County Council and the Residents Associations is exemplary.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

You are to be congratulated on your great success in having so many plastic shop signs removed. As you are aware your task is not completed! However, it is notable how many fine and varied shop signs your Town has to offer. Your initiative in sending reminders to owners who are having renovations carried out to avoid plastic signs is to be commended. Overall the presentation of buildings is very good. The MAXOL and SHELL Garages were well presented. Also ODeas Hotel, Kilboys Funeral Home, Connollys Lounge Bar, Donlons Fruit & Veg., Weavers Rest Coffee Shop, Harneys Bar, Finnegans and the Credit Union. Both Banks would benefit from floral decoration. The Garda Station needs attention. Haverty Adult Education Centre was superbly presented.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Your Committee's war on litter is an example that could be copied by other Towns. The provision of skips for large household refuse during Clean Up Loughrea Week is a great encouragement to residents - particularly when the skips are so strategically placed for convenience in the Barrack Car Park. The weekly litter-pick during the summer months is especially commended. Your efforts to change the residents' habits from plastic bags to canvas shopping bags - and at cost price - is a wonderful idea. Your "Please consider don't litter" sign is a nice reminder. The only litter noticed on the day of adjudication was trapped in some waterways - and may have travelled from outside! The plentiful supply of litter bins was noted.

## TIDINESS

The recycling bins beside the Fire Station are a great idea. We almost missed them because a mobile Fish & Chip van was obliterating the view. Have you a sign directing residents to this facility? A key factor in the Adjudication Criteria for 1996 is evidence that the whole community is involved in caring for the environment. You are to be congratulated for the constant reminders you provide and for the encouragement given to all the residents of Loughrea. There is no better way to care for the environment than recycling materials.

## RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Your encouragement to Estate dwellers is paying dividends. At Beechwood Close the grass was neatly cut and the flower and shrub planting was fine. Keep an eye on the open areas here, though. The nameplate at the entrance to Coscorríg Crescent looked very well. St. Lawrence's Fields: Again the stone nameplate suitably planted round with flowers, was delightful. The stone wall with the trees planted is very impressive. Open area was neat and tidy. Most of the homes here were very well presented. Fahy Gardens: Again, grass neatly cut, excellent flower planting, no litter - and nice to see Neighbourhood Watch Sign. A little encouragement here to residents would transform the Gardens. Other areas to be commended are Lakeside Park, Donnellan Drive, Pinewood Crescent and St. Brendan's Court. There are some excellent examples of beautifully presented homes and a general feeling of pride among residents. Your Committee is to be commended for offering financial aid to Estates willing to improve their areas.

## ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Congratulations on the opening of the Barrack Street car park (and the beautiful entrance). On the day of our visit it was so popular that we could not find a space! The new access from Barrack Street to Main Street is a great development. It is also ideally suited for quick access to the Walks. Incidentally, because of the numbers availing of The Walks you would need to keep the area monitored for litter and weed growth. It was a joy to see the stone wall along the Lake Road and the other areas where stone is featured. In this respect the stone wall on the Gort approach is first class. Your approach roads are well cared for but they do need constant attention. Keep an eye on weed growth, especially at the base of your excellent stone walls and at the kerbsides.

## GENERAL IMPRESSION

Loughrea has something for everyone. No wonder you are experiencing a building boom! There is a definite feeling that the residents take great pride in their Town and are happy to let visitors share the enjoyment. The ongoing Programme for development is superb. Your tree, shrub and flower planting is excellent especially the constructions at Garrybreeda Park and near St. Brendan's Cathedral. All is not perfect - otherwise you would have no task to perform. There are drab buildings, some irritating plastic signs, areas needing further attention. But you know what needs to be done. We had a marvellous day in Loughrea and so much enjoyed our visit. Keep up the good work. You deserve success.