

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TUAM**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	18
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18
Landscaping	40	22
The Built Environment	40	32
Litter Control	40	20
Tidiness	20	8
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	12
General Impression	10	4
TOTAL MARK	300	153

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Many thanks for the detailed questionnaire. Ten members seems a small committee for a town as large as Tuam. It is hoped that you have set up support groups in residential areas to assist you. Given the competition's new format we would encourage you to work on a five year development plan using this new format in co-operation with the local authority, FÁS and any other interested parties. Such a plan would provide you with a work programme to follow in the coming years.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

While the centre of town is very built up, the outer areas, approach roads and river area near the Mill provide opportunities for wildlife conservation and amenity development. The Mill river which has been developed with seating and a green area was untidy, had a lot of litter and the water looked polluted and unpleasant. We would encourage you to seek the advice of the local environmental experts to assist you identify wildlife habitats and other opportunities.

LANDSCAPING

Your programme of developing green areas should be continued and maximum use should be made of open spaces to present attractive focal points.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the commercial buildings are well presented and maintained. Examples such as the Railway Station, Kilgarriffs Chemist, Gilligans Bar, Garden Fresh, The Spice of Life and Paul OGradys are but a few fine examples in the town centre. Others like Kilgarriff & Sons Pub on Bishop Street are attractive, if in need of painting. As always we would advise you to continue to encourage the use of traditional shop-fronts and signs rather than plastic. The Mill Museum is attractive but I failed to find assistance for a tour despite seeking assistance from the Tourist Information Office.

LITTER CONTROL

This is very definitely a weak area for Tuam. Litter dominates most areas. The Mill water area was strewn with plastic cider bottles and cans at 3.00 in the day. Chapel Street was alive with litter blowing in the wind. The Temple Jarlath was awash with fast food bags, etc. As per last year's report this issue must be addressed. Without proper control of litter you are not even a competitor in this competition.

TIDINESS

The cars, vans and trucks dominate Tuam to an excessive degree. Double yellow lines and unloading areas are ignored and allowed to be ignored. Traffic congestion gives a most untidy appearance to the town while the car park I used had plenty of free space.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As in most areas some residents do more than others. Your committee might like to organise residential garden and presentation competitions to improve the overall appearance of the town.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The main approach roads are well presented. Continue to maximise landscaping opportunities and the use of stone walls and features where possible. Back streets need attention, the Mall and Chapel Street being examples of this. Gates are in poor condition, weeds are out of control and abandoned OConnor trucks are all too easy to be seen.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Given the historic nature of the town much more should be done to improve its appearance. Traffic congestion inhibits walking about and a radical view of limiting traffic flow should be considered in the town centre. More work on the basics like litter control and winning the co-operation of the whole community is required if Tuam is to advance and do well in this competition.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (02/08/96)

There was less disposable litter in the town centre on second adjudication but a considerable amount in side streets and the two car parks used were litter strewn. Much litter was noted in the riverside area from the Tourist Office to the Mill - ranging from a traffic cone (floating) to more ordinary types of rubbish. This is obviously a real problem in Tuam where there do seem to be plenty of litter bins. The town has an unusual number of handsome buildings, well kept shopfronts and attractive private houses; the new paving and lighting in the centre are impressive; yet several towns of comparable size but much less well endowed architecturally and environmentally do better in the competition. The overall mark in Tuam is disappointing, especially when the support and help from the official and other bodies listed on the application form is taken into consideration. We will look forward to a better result next year.