

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **FOYNES**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21
Landscaping	40	28
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	26
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	194

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

To judge from your responses to the questionnaire Foynes would seem to have a good working relationship with the relevant local statutory bodies. For next year's competition it is important to have compiled a detailed professional 3/5 year plan of campaign for your town in order to give yourselves a clear direction for dealing with the problem areas within the community.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The stream area around the town square/museum/hospital area could be cleaned up and opened out in order to become an integral part of the overall landscaping plan for this area. Perhaps the best way of tackling this category would be to get in contact with your local environmental groups and experts in order to seek advise on this broad-ranging issue. From there, you can then locate your local wildlife habitats and see what species of animals, birds, fish and plantlife these attract. A good idea would be to involve the local schoolchildren in this programme - they will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the abundance of wildlife in their local environment.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaped areas of the town looked very well on adjudication day, although there is still scope for further development in this category. The stone surrounded grotto was well maintained. The landscaped bank to the hospital looked magnificent. The landscaped area of rose beds and trees in front of the Community Centre looked marvellous. The planted area to the library was also admired for its permanent planting and trees defining the pavement. The benches along the main street were fine but could be freshened up before next year's competition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both the public and commercial buildings of Foynes looked well on Adjudication Day. The Post Office/Health Centre is a very charming building in stone and plaster. The Foynes Flying Boat museum was reasonably well presented, with its attractive limestone surround to the door, although the "t" was missing on the sign. The surgery building adjacent needs freshening up. The base of the aqua-marine blue door appeared to be quite damaged. The railway station opposite is a very charming building, but the timbers of the rooflight in behind the main building are exposed to the elements and this looks quite unsightly. The church was well presented. The library and Fire Station were very fresh. Although it is appreciated that the bollards to the front of the latter are a necessary evil, they do look quite unsightly. The Garda Station and boundary wall were grubby (the gables in particular). The railings to the school were in need of painting, while the tarmac and concrete playground looks very bare and could do with some landscaping to soften its unwelcoming appearance. Landscaping would also help to camouflage the oil tank, which currently looks quite unsightly. The AIB was well presented, with its small planted bed in front. The ivy clad Shannon House looked fresh in black and white. Although Spar was very fresh it should remove the window stickers as they give a very cluttered appearance. The floral displays were a delight in particular the hanging baskets at the Foynes Inn and the window boxes to M. Fitzgerald's - an attractive traditional front. The Shannon House had some colourfully planted timber tubs either side of door. However, the timber sign was quite flaky. M.S. Motor Factors was quite fresh. There are some messy yard areas in the town which should be obscured from public view. Shop owners should be encouraged to remove their inappropriate projecting plastic signs and replace them with more traditional timber ones. Many of the forecourts to the buildings set back along the main street have great potential as worthwhile landscaped spaces defining the pavement line.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control was generally very good on Adjudication Day. Some litter was seen on the Limerick road, outside the Post Office, and a little bit along the main street. The alleyway leading to the playing fields behind the school was very littered and weedy, and some was visible to the roadside in front.

TIDINESS

The appearance of the shipbrokers yards with the cranes and storage/industrial buildings on the Kerry approach were as neat as could be expected but could perhaps be screened more successfully. The derelict building opposite -the Mill House-had been presented as well as possible under the circumstances, with its painted on fanlight. More unsightly yard areas were: that weedy one opposite the train station with a cracked concrete surface and that messy area beside the museum car parking area containing piles of building materials. The open area beside the community centre was quite weedy also, as was the car park/town square area by the museum. The open space between the railway station and the Post Office looked quite messy also. The Shannon Tourism area display map looked quite sad with its rotten frame and should be replaced/restored. The supporting posts should be painted.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There were some most attractive houses and gardens throughout the town. The stone house beside the Kerry bar had a very interesting pottery garden. The cream coloured house close by was also attractive with its profusion of flowers- including poppies, Easter lilies and roses. A very quaint derelict cottage on the Kerry road would benefit from restoration. The attractive stone cottages with plaster porches to the main street were admired, although some could be freshened up before next year's competition. There were some magnificent gardens on display, including those magnificent ones opposite the grotto. The road to the school sported some beautiful gardens, although some boundary walls need attention. The gable fronted houses to the centre of the terrace looked particularly fresh and bright. The housing estate on the Limerick road was well presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category was quite inconsistent. On the Loughill/Kerry road a slight amount of weeding is necessary to the kerbsides. The sign was quite fresh and the verges reasonably well cut back. The Limerick road was a little bit weedy, although some attempt had been made to cut back the verges.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The busy town of Foynes is an unusual and attractive one, which looked well on the bright and sunny June day of adjudication. It created a very good first impression. The side areas should be concentrated on for next year's competition. The adjudicator was interested to hear of its association with both Irish Coffee and Trans-Atlantic by-planes!