Tidy Towns 1996

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KNOCKLONG**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17
Landscaping	40	26
The Built Environment	40	27
Litter Control	40	29
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	**300**	**197**

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH
Although you did not submit a three or five year work programme, you seem to have a clear idea of what you would like to achieve in the future for Knocklong. Your relationship and level of communication with both FAS and Ballyhoura Development is to be commended. However, it is important to have drawn up a professional report in order to highlight the weak areas, and identify the town's strengths in order that you may concentrate on these problem areas and promote the town's strong points. Many thanks for your comprehensive responses to the questionnaire and map which were helpful on Adjudication Day.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES
Perhaps the best approach to this issue of wildlife/natural amenities would be to contact local environmental groups and experts who could advise and provide you with the information you need to tackle this broad-ranging issue. From there you can then identify the wildlife habitats of your area and see what varieties of animals, birds, fish and plantlife these attract. Involve the local schoolchildren in this project - they will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the wealth of wildlife in their locality.

LANDSCAPING
The standard in this category was reasonably good. The bridge and graveyard boundary wall looked to be in need of a fresh coat of paint. The grotto was neatly presented but a little bare. The raised planted bed beside O' Donovan's was admired (although the forecourt area could be improved upon). The rockery to the top of Church and Hill roads looked very colourful with a variety of flowers including lupins and poached eggs. The stone walling and planting to road signs around the town were also admired.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
The standard of presentation in this category was reasonably good. The Community Centre was well maintained, although the forecourt area would be improved by some landscaping to soften the rather bare impression. The church was very fresh, but the railings could be freshened before next year's competition. The school was also fresh apart from the tower and boundary wall which could be freshened (especially the coping). Some weeds were noted to the base of the wall. Some forecourt areas in the town could be either tidied up or more successfully screened from public view. The metalworks forecourt area was rather weedy. The concrete fence to the factory should be painted or replaced. Molly Dawson's looked very fresh in a yellow colour. Shop-keepers should be discouraged from the over-use of stickers to their windows as they give a very cluttered appearance to the shop fronts.

LITTER CONTROL
The standard of litter control on Adjudication Day was excellent, with only a few papers outside the school.

TIDINESS
The overall impression created by the town was a neat and tidy one. However, on closer inspection, there were a few problem areas. The outbuildings at the top of Hill road should be painted, as should the boundary wall to the new house and the grass needed trimming. Inappropriate projecting plastic signage should be removed, and replaced by timber ones. Flyposting should also be discouraged. The telephone box was quite badly stained. The desolate entrance area to the railway station and Horseshoe Inn with a broken stone wall and grubby plastered wall leaves a lot to be desired.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS
The standard of presentation of housing and gardens in the town was good. The housing estate on the

Kilmallock road was well kept if slightly bare-looking. The same could be said of the Curragheen estate, despite the new trees. Curragheen Cottages were fresh apart from a single boundary wall. The very fresh cottage by the graveyard with the white-washed wall was admired, as was another attractive cottage and traditional cottage garden. The B&B looked neat, fresh and cheerful with an abundance of colourful hanging baskets and flowers. The attractive stone with brick trimmed cottages opposite the Horseshoe Inn were greatly admired for their charm.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard of presentation in this category was good, apart from the road surfaces themselves which were very pot-holed. The Limerick road was admired for its enchanting tubs of roses. The road signs were very fresh, and the verges had been neatly cut. The Mitchelstown road had well cut verges and new trees. The signage was generally good apart from a single slightly grubby speed limit sign. The road leading to the church from the town centre was quite overgrown. The pot-holes of Church road had been filled in. Hill road was, however, in very bad order and potholed.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town of Knocklong is rather spread out, giving a vast area for the committee to cover. Despite this, the town looked well on Adjudication Day. The town's setting is absolutely ideal, with some fantastic views.