

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BANGOR ERRIS**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11
Landscaping	40	21
The Built Environment	40	22
Litter Control	40	24
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	160

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the Tidy Towns competition. Bangor is located in a beautiful setting and we look forward to your efforts over the coming years in improving your Town. You will need to develop a plan of work and identify key areas to focus on. It is good to see that you have already started working with the County Council. Your Fas plan is also noted. You should consider the types of facilities you need to provide in the Town. There were a lot of cyclists passing through the Town on adjudication day. The coast road has excellent views and you could create a rest area here. Your plan of the Town was very helpful and illustrates your awareness of the best attributes of Bangor.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It would seem that one of the best amenities of the Town is the Owenmore River. There is great potential for development along this stretch of river. One suggestion is the creation of a wildflower meadow along the river by the school. You should develop a wildlife plan for this area.

LANDSCAPING

The hanging baskets at Brogans were very well maintained. There was a lot of weeds around the Church wall and down from the school. There is great potential for tree planting in both the church and the school grounds, as they would screen views to back areas. The grass areas of the housing estate above the Ballina road should be mown and there is great potential for tree planting here. More window boxes through the Town are needed. You should consider planting low hedging along the boundary walls of the coast road and put a town name sign here also. the planting at the tourist sign is very well done; try to make another at the telephone box, and you could also consider tree planting along Church Road.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Many of the commercial properties in the Town were presented to a high standard, namely Spar, Brogans, M. Reilly and the Talk of the Town pub. Plastic signage should be targeted for replacement with traditional shopfronts. The Wets End bar is maintained to a high standard, but could use some hanging baskets and windowboxes. The old wall in the vacant lot opposite Brogans on the Mulranny road should be whitewashed. The North-Western Fisheries Board need to improve their premises on the Mulranny road. The derelict buildings on main street are a problem which you need to tackle with the assistance of the Council. You are still in the early days of planning, so it may be a good idea to seek the advice of the County Architect with regard to a colour scheme for the buildings on main street and on how to improve shopfronts.

LITTER CONTROL

On entering the Town the litter bins were full, and there was some litter blowing around the Town. The Council emptied the bins later in the day and cleaned up the bins. You should watch for periods of high litter demand and plan collection with the Council to avoid overflowing litter bins. Generally, the standard of litter control is good but you need to maintain constant vigilance on this issue.

TIDINESS

Generally, there was a good standard of tidiness, but watch out for weeds in the car parks, litter and some of the yards could do with screening or clearing out. There were old engines strewn on the pavement in the housing estate above the Ballina road - this is unacceptable in a residential area and this type of littering must be attended to in a strong manner if you are to improve your rating.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The white house between the church and the Fisheries Board was admired especially for its front garden. The estate up the hill from the school needs more attention to painting of houses and boundary walls; litter was visible at the lower end of the estate and none of the open spaces were mown. Try to encourage residents to plant along their fences and to keep weed growth in check. The last house on the left on the coast road was well presented with many new trees. The houses along the coast road were colourful and welcoming. Some boundary walls here need attention and painting.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Street cleaning was in progress on adjudication day which was good to see. The coast road was well maintained with verges cut to the speed limit signs- good work! The trees planted along the Ballina road should really improve this approach over time. Some planting around the Town name sign would be good. The Belmullet road was well maintained and verges were neatly trimmed. Try to plant hedging along this road where there are gaps and wire fences, stick to native plants where possible. There are too many signs along this road, you need one sign in good repair with international symbols to display the facilities on offer in the town.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This was an excellent effort for the first year in the competition, and there is great scope for improving the Town over time. Try to develop a plan for the Town. Keep up the good work!