

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BELCARRA**  
County : **MAYO**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17
Landscaping	40	29
The Built Environment	40	29
Litter Control	40	32
Tidiness	20	15
Residential Areas	30	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>219</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The information submitted with your application was informative and the map was very helpful in finding the various areas. You seem to have addressed the key areas in the town, namely the main street, grounds of community centre, approach roads and the river frontage. You should consider approaching the Co. Council with regard to speed controls within the town.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The new amenity area by the riverside is very impressive. There are unfortunately some signs of pollution in the river, which is outside the remit of the tidy towns, but you should contact the fisheries board for technical advice on improving the water quality in the river. One can't help but notice the numerous swallows near the river. You could start a student bird student survey project and join the corncrake project as other towns are doing.

### LANDSCAPING

Overall there was a great effort in planting and maintenance. The new area down by the river looks very well, though some planting along the raised area would add to this area. Similarly the gable of the community centre could do with planting. The planting at the common looks well also. The floral displays at the sports and community centres are excellent and very impressive. The church grounds are also worthy of mention - excellent effort !

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Once again, full credit for the maintenance of buildings in the town. The dancehall, and national school both looked very well, and buildings throughout the town were well maintained. All front walls were also well maintained. Cuffes garage should arrange to store materials at the back of the property where they would be less visible. Heneghans, Flukies, Corleys and Cunninghams were all well presented., Another litter bin is required in this area. Sitting in the common one can't help but notice that the roof of the shed opposite needs to be painted.

### LITTER CONTROL

There was small bit of litter at the fishery to the right of the steps and some silage plastic which had washed down. A new bin is needed at Cunninghams as the HB one is not large enough. The river was litter free on adjudication day.

### TIDINESS

All areas were maintained to a very high standard. Verges along approach roads were mown, there were no weeds visible, and all buildings and ancillary areas were maintained to a high standard.

### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of maintenance in housing areas is very good. The derelict house down from the church could be tidied up and perhaps painted. There were well presented houses next to PJ Westons, especially the yellow house to the right, and the painting of the derelict house opposite Heneghans is a great effort.

### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The new stone walls are a great improvement for the town. The new wall by the national school looks well. The approach roads are maintained to a very high standard, and the approach from Ballyglass is

very well maintained. The stone walls throughout the town are extremely clean and create a sense of continuity. The extra efforts of owners who have whitewashed their walls were noted. As cited in your entry, the derelict buildings are an unfortunate element in the town, and are unacceptable. Perhaps you could talk to Mayo Co. Council re the Derelict Sites Act to see what can be done. You should make more of the ruins at the graveyard - remove the ivy and signpost.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

For such a small town this is an exemplary effort. There seems to be a very strong community spirit, with the entire community partaking in the efforts. Overall, this was a very good effort.

#### SECOND ADJUDICATION (09/08/96)

The village of Belcarra looked well on the day of second adjudication with its abundance of colourful window boxes. The new trees, stone walls and neatly trimmed verges were admired. However, the yellow and black kerbs to the footpaths on the Castlebar road were rather faded and should be freshened up, as should the dance hall building on this road. A few curved red tin outbuildings scattered throughout the village could be maintained to a higher standard. The commercial and business premises of Belcarra were well presented, the school being particularly admired for its attractive limestone boundary wall in front, hanging baskets and window boxes. The cheerful planted bed of petunias to the recessed parking area beside was also admired. Some effort should be made to camouflage the oil tank in some way, perhaps a climbing plant. St. Anne's Church and landscaped car park was beautifully maintained. However, some green staining to the bell tower was apparent. The side wall to the sports hall was also quite stained. Corley's and Flukey's could freshen up their gable, as it looks quite grubby as you walk down main Street. Litter control was excellent on the day and a member of the litter patrol was spotted on her rounds! However, a few papers were spotted in the river.