

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASTLEBAR**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13
Landscaping	40	25
The Built Environment	40	27
Litter Control	40	19
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	181

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your development approach is very good and seems to be paying off. All of the areas identified in your excellent plan are being tackled fully on the ground. The area covered by the Town is very large, and as such it is a great effort to try to co-ordinate all of the various activities. Your development plan should be concise. In future years it may be preferable to develop a structured approach which extends to the outlying areas and which takes in a number of sub committees, as it seems to be the town centre which has been tackled and is a great improvement on last year. As a suggestion, your efforts in future years could include: - approach roads - development of natural amenities, interconnecting trails along the river and lakes - maintenance of floral displays, street paint, landscape, litter

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The riverside walk along the Castlebar River needs upgrading; the bridge at Charles Street has rusty fencing and a lot of this area is overgrown and is littered. The two lakes were maintained to a high standard. Lough Lannagh was well maintained, grass mown and litter bins emptied. This is a great effort - well done. You could look at putting in some picnic benches, and some more litter bins. The lakes are one of the most attractive features of the Town.

LANDSCAPING

The mall was excellently presented, closely mown and litter free - an excellent presentation. The new open space at Marian Terrace is very attractive, especially the new tree planting. The floral displays along the market square is very impressive, also the hanging baskets on main street look well. The main areas of concern with regard to landscape is the maintenance of the approach roads. Some of the grass verges along the N5 are not mown. The area next to Roadstone depot is very weedy and should be tidied up. The Breffy, Balla, Belcarra, Ballinrobe, and Claremorris approaches were not mown. These areas could also do with some tree planting, as they are very bare in appearance. You should consider using native trees such as ash.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

All of the buildings within the Town were generally presented to a high standard. There has been a great effort by the business community to improve the standard of buildings in the town centre particularly. Main street looked very well on adjudication. Some premises of note were the Irish Permanent, First National, ACC, and many of the public houses. Traditional shopfronts seem to be the norm now, and you should encourage others who retain plastic signage. The ad sign outside the Bank of Ireland is obtrusive and should be removed. The new Garda station and Council offices around the Mall are excellently presented, as were the majority of buildings along Spencer Street.

LITTER CONTROL

Generally, the standard of litter control in the Town was good. There was no litter in any of the central areas, with the exception of Castle Street and the Castle Street car park. There was no litter visible on the approach roads, though some litter was visible in Lough Lannagh car park. You need constant vigilance on litter, especially in the central town areas.

TIDINESS

Generally there is a good standard of tidiness. Areas to watch are mowing of margins along the approach roads, and the riverside/lakeside areas.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses along the Pontoon road were in excellent condition on adjudication day. There were some weedy kerbs on the Waterville estate. Pontoon drive was well maintained, the boundary walls here could use some painting. The Thornbrook estate looked exceptionally well with hanging baskets, and floral displays. All the areas within this estate were very well maintained. The planting of standard trees in gardens along Turlough road should be encouraged. Litter was visible in Fr. Conroy Park and Rowan Drive. Springfield and Fr. Meehan place are coming along well and are very neat and tidy. Development in this area is generating some visually unsightly areas. The open spaces at fortlands are not being maintained, and you should get a namesign for the spur road feeding these estates. Lakeshore drive and the new planting was well presented. You should encourage the residents of Oak drive to plant some trees in their front gardens. Good standard of presentation in most residential areas.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach from Pontoon is very neat and well maintained, however there is no town sign at the entrance to the town. The semi-derelict area next to the roundabout is detracting from the wonderful effort which you have made with the floral displays. You need to tackle the Council on this particular issue. Along Turlough Road, the residential areas, Oak Park, and Clyden Park are well presented - again no town signs on the entrance to the town. Roadside margins here are not well maintained and there are no trees on the approach, in particular around Caseys garage. The standard of grass maintenance and tree planting need to be considered on the approach roads (see landscape section) Thomas street and the green looked well on adjudication day. The GAA ground and Mc Hale park needs major upgrading, and the car park off Castle street should be upgraded with tree planting and resurfacing.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The Town was well presented on adjudication day. there has been a lot of effort put into this years competition. Landscape was impressive, a lot of floral displays visible. Residential areas are very well maintained. There is a need to concentrate more on approach roads and outlying areas. There were some problems with litter in back areas which should be addressed. The business centre of the Town is looking very well. You should focus more of your efforts on the outlying areas, particularly in relation to landscape and derelict buildings.