

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CLAREMORRIS**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17
Landscaping	40	21
The Built Environment	40	19
Litter Control	40	19
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	147

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

You should devise a work plan for the next 3-5 years outlining objectives which you plan to achieve. You state that the Co. Council plan to improve the town square but there is no indication of what improvements will be made or the extent of the involvement of the committee in these improvements. There are two areas for planning which were prominent on adjudication day. The first was colour schemes for buildings and the second was traffic congestion. Both of these areas could have a significant effect on the town.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The amenity area at Clare Lough was well presented and is developing well. There were some trees at the entrance area which have failed and these should be replaced. It is good to see the handicapped access sign, and facilities in this area are quite good.

LANDSCAPING

The seats and planting on the Castlebar road were well maintained and enhance this approach into the town. The islands along the Ballinrobe road were weedy and need attention. You could consider planting trees along the Castlebar end of town.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The SuperValu was well-presented and the car park planting well-maintained. Telecoms Engineering Headquarters on the Castlebar road could freshen up their signage and plant a few more trees in front. The railway bridge at the junction of the Galway and Ballinrobe roads is badly in need of painting. The Garda station looked well. St. Colmans funeral home on the Ballinrobe road was very attractively presented. M. Killeens pub on the Ballinrobe road was also admired. The derelict building at the junction of the Ballyhaunis road is a problem area. Overall, many of the buildings through the town are rather grey and drab, and you could consult the county architect about a colour scheme for buildings on the main roads of the town. The boundary walls of the cemetery on Mount Street need freshening up. Griffiths signage and drab boundary walls detract from the Clare Lough park entrance. The derelict areas and yards around the Town Hall are another poor sight, and hopefully the new development will enhance this area. The filling stations on the Ballyhaunis road could be improved with floral displays. The railroad station was well-presented, with its window-boxes, baskets, and new bin outside. The Town Hall was a very drab colour and needs freshening up. A new colour scheme, new signage, and some hanging baskets are needed here. The post office and its car park also need attention. Many shopfronts on Church Street and Main Street are improving and the standard here of shops is increasingly being upgraded. However, there is still a problem with excess signage, particularly in the form of plastic signage and window stickers. This detracts from other attractive and simpler presentations, such as Clare Dry Cleaners. For example, Kellys Newsagents would be much improved if the 7up sign and stickers were removed and replaced with a traditional sign. OBriens Texaco has excessively large signs. Irish shopfronts and signage are a welcome change, and this could be continued as is seen on Dalton and Church Streets. Attention should be give to the upper storeys of buildings, as quite a few need freshening up. The public library and the planting around its grounds is impressive and greatly enhances this end of the town. Both St. Johns Church and the Catholic Church are very well-presented, and the grounds were mown.

LITTER CONTROL

There was a great deal of litter in gutters along kerbs on Main Street, despite the many bins in evidence. Some litter was noticed on the Galway road just past Main Street. Litter control was very good on the Castlebar road and in the Clare Lough park. There was litter noticed opposite the Town Hall and inside the wall of the Catholic Church. There was a good deal of litter all down the Knock road between Kellys

and Sweeneys, especially plastic bags from these shops, even though the shop owners provided bins.

TIDINESS

There are several untidy areas in the town which the committee will need to address. Air Plants Ltd. on the Ballinrobe road should store their planks in the back yard, not on the road frontage. Planters in front could not disguise the untidy appearance of the APL premises. Gravel and rubble were dumped in the yards in front of the Town Hall, which is entirely unacceptable. The Market Square still gives a generally unfavourable impression, but we look forward to the planned improvements here. Weed growth was a problem on some approach roads, namely the Ballyglass road.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the houses on the Galway road looked well, but a few gates need attention. The houses on the Ballinrobe road were presented to a high standard, but weed control along some of the boundary walls here was poor. Houses on the Ballyhaunis road and the Knock road were well-kept. Overall, the gardens of houses throughout the town were in good order. The planting at the house next to Sweeneys was brought down to the footpath - well done! Many boundary walls and gates on the Ballyglass road need painting, and this road was not maintained to as high a standard as the rest. The stone wall of the house at the junction of the Ballyglass and Ballinrobe roads was very tidy and attractive. Attention is urgently needed to some of the boundary walls on the Ballyhaunis road as they detract from the area. A few on the Knock road are also in a poor state. A few derelict houses on the Ballyglass road were a problem, too.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Traffic congestion is a problem for the heart of the town, and even though there are car parks provided, they, too, are mostly full during the day. Many of the approach roads were not maintained to the standards of this competition. The approach road to Chapel Lane was the worst problem area, and was not maintained at all. The stone walls here were in very bad condition. The Ballyglass road did not have a town name sign, and the grass verges had not been mown. The Galway road had grass verges that had not been mown. Trees had been vandalised (broken) and smothered by weeds. There was now planting around the town name sign, and the grass had not even been mown around it. There was an untidy building site here which also detracted from the area. The Castlebar road was in complete contrast - very tidy, no litter, no weeds, and walls in good order. Try to keep to this standard. The Ballinrobe road was generally tidy, but there were some weedy stretches. The town name sign needs re-painting and some planting around it. Billboards on this road detract from its appearance. The Ballyhaunis road was better, with no litter or weeds, and generally tidy. However, the grass verges should be mown to the speed limit signs on this road. Glynns should avoid displaying their wares on the side of the road. Again, the town name sign needs painting and planting. Some stone walls in disrepair should be attended to. The Knock road was not maintained to a high enough standard. The grass verges were, again, not mown to the speed limit signs. The stone walls along this road are very over-grown and in poor repair.

Footpaths on the Castlebar road could be upgraded eventually, and the footpath tends to disappear in places (such as in front of the ESSO station). The committee should persuade shop owners not to display their wares in the footpaths, as it gives a cluttered and untidy impression. Dereliction on the Castlebar end of town detracts from this approach. Station Road was generally tidy, with good weed control. A bin is needed here at the top of the road. Some of the fencing along this road could be planted up.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town is improving in terms of shopfronts, but there are still some problem areas in relation to signage and colour schemes, with many drab buildings in evidence. Litter control and traffic congestion are serious problems for Main Street, and hopefully the committee can act on both matters. The standard of

the approach roads is not high enough, and this is one of the main areas on which you need to focus. The appearance of residential areas throughout the town is quite high, so perhaps you can seek out more help for the committee. The park is developing as a major amenity area for the town, and shows how successful your efforts are when they are co-ordinated and planned. You will need to apply more concentration to some other aspects of the town now in order to advance to the upper levels of the competition.