

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **FOXFORD**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25
Landscaping	40	17
The Built Environment	40	19
Litter Control	40	12
Tidiness	20	8
Residential Areas	30	14
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	15
General Impression	10	4
TOTAL MARK	300	141

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

You seem to have a plan which is organised and workable, and your comprehensive submission is appreciated. Your fundraising efforts are very good, as is the scheme for representatives for different streets. It would seem that there could be greater numbers on your committee, based on the size of the population. Foxford is fortunate to have potential with both its natural amenities and its important Mill. You will need to get everyone involved in developing this potential to its fullest.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river area is very attractive, and the newly-planted trees add to the appeal to the area. The fishing stands are a notable feature - well done! The stream under Providence Road needs attention, and could be an excellent project for the local schoolchildren. You could contact the Northwest Fisheries Board for advice on how to improve the stream. Your active participation in the Mayo Corncrake Project is to be highly commended, and should serve as a model for other towns in the region.

LANDSCAPING

The hanging baskets outside of Joyces were admired. The bus stop planting area looked well and was well-maintained. However, the planting beds at the base of the trees on Main Street were still not planted in July, and this is really too late for the summer season. Also, there was a large bed at the bus stop and a few window-boxes at Meitheal Mhaigheo which had not been planted. You will need to get started earlier next year. Some of the deep corners of buildings along Main Street could use planting up. Generally, some more window-boxes on Main Street would enhance the town a great deal. The prominent corner on the Swinford Road with the large boulder in it (opposite Barrets foodstore) could be filled in and planted. The large boulder itself could be an attractive feature for a rock garden.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Some of the buildings in Foxford are presented to a very high standard - including the Centra and Jiffy Cleaners, and premises on the Castlebar Road. However, there are still problem areas which the committee must address. Comments from last years adjudication regarding the old boys school and Brown Memorial Hall still hold. The back of Clarkes Lounge looks very poor from Chapel Road. The estate agents on Chapel Road needs to replace the plastic signage, and Gannons sign at the junction with Providence Road needs cleaning. The Garda station looked well, having been freshly-painted. Sadly, Foxford Woollen Mills had not received the same treatment. While the elaborate display inside the Mills is a draw for tourists, the outside of the building appears very drab and neglected - with graffiti and broken windows. The Mill is very prominent, and great attention should be given to a colour scheme for the outside walls, especially facing the car park and the river. Windows and doors should be in good repair, and the building should enhance the riverside, not detract from it. The tourist centre was well-presented, as were The Weavers, Moy Veterinary Centre, and McNulty's. The gable wall of Anglers Bar needs to be freshened up. The new stone wall by Hennigans looked very well.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter is still quite a serious problem in the town, despite your efforts, and this is one of the disadvantages of the tourism trade. It was noticeable that there were no bins near the Mill, with only an old metal drum with litter scrawled on it at the car park entrance. This presents a very shabby appearance, and does not tackle the litter generated by the numerous visitors. There was a very serious litter problem on Main Street, especially at the main junction with Bridge Street, including dirty nappies in the street. The careless attitude of visitors was worsened by the fact that the bins had not been emptied for some time and had completely overflowed. The lack of litter bins around the Foxford Woollen Mills Visitors Centre caused puzzled tourists to simply toss drinks containers and rubbish randomly throughout the small green. You will need to persuade the Mill and other businesses to sponsor more bins, and to ensure that

these bins can be emptied regularly. Litter had accumulated all along the side of the Mill building. There was also litter on Chapel Road, probably partially due to the bus stop being on this road. Litter was also noticeable at the junction of the Pontoon and Ballina roads.

TIDINESS

The town was not looking very tidy on adjudication day. In addition to the litter problems, there was rubble dumping in several locations. A serious problem exists at the car park beside Foxford Woollen Mills, where there was gravel dumped around the side of the mill and car park, and weeds throughout the car park. Unattractive fencing in the vicinity of the car park, and the general lack of trees and planting were additional negative aspects. Indeed, the car park area was rather unpleasant, and this is surprising when it is probably one of the most visible areas to tourists. Weeds were also somewhat of a problem, particularly on Providence Road, Chapel Road (near Jones) and in residential areas.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses on Providence Road looked very well on adjudication day. The estate past the Garda station was very weedy, with kerbs and boundary walls completely overgrown. Most houses on the Ballina road looked well. The new planting looks well, but areas around the trees need weeding. The grass verges should be mown along the edge of the road to present a tidy appearance. Some of the boundary walls of houses on the Chapel Road would benefit from re-painting. The Church gates also are in need of painting. The estate at the junction of the Ballina and Pontoon roads was very weedy and overgrown, with many walls and houses in need of painting. You will need to co-ordinate with local residents about tackling this problem.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The new paving outside the Church was still in progress, but seemed to be coming on well and we look forward to its completion next year. The new paving at the Cross between Main Street was admired, although a floral display would add to it. The Swinford Road needs attention, as the town name sign was not clearly visible. The road itself needs re-surfacing, and you will need to work with the County Council about improving it. It was noted that footpaths were under construction, and this is a good sign of things to come. As already mentioned, the corner opposite Barrets needs to be planned. Some boundary walls here need re-painting. The Castlebar Road was looking well, with grass margins mown and an overall tidy appearance. The planting at the town sign looked well. There was a problem here as well with road surfacing. The Pontoon Road was marred by dumping on the derelict site and the verges were not mown. The walls opposite the Lakeland B&B need painting. The town name sign was overgrown. The Ballina Road was very weedy, and many boundary walls need re-painting. The large derelict site between the football pitches and the Mill car park is a serious problem area and is highly visible from the housing estate. There was extensive dumping of building rubble, old tyres, and rubbish and children were seen playing there in somewhat dangerous conditions. This area needs an action plan. Another derelict site was noticed between the fire station and the handball alley.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Foxford has a number of areas of potential which need to be developed further. There seems to be a lack of attention to detail in some critical areas of the town, and the committee will need to address these in future. There is a serious problem with back areas and the presentation of the Mill environs. Extensive dumping near residential areas is another aspect which must be addressed. Finally, litter control is currently rather poor, and this will be an area in which serious action will need to be taken.