

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KNOCKMORE**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	25
The Built Environment	40	23
Litter Control	40	23
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	177

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

You need a plan which will involve co-ordination with the County Council; more people in the village need to be involved in your efforts, esp. in regards to litter control. Lough Conn shoreline is the amenity which will attract visitors to your village. Better facilities are needed in the Village to encourage numerous passing motorists to stop. Shops without signs and pubs with old signs are too obscure and old looking to attract visitors. Speed control through the village is a serious problem which needs to be addressed by the Co. Council, as there were numerous cars passing through the village in excess of 60 miles per hour on adjudication day!

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As far as wildlife is concerned, the grounds around the car park at Lough Conn could be planted with native trees and shrubs. How about an information sign on the bird life in the Lough? It would seem that a football pitch along the Lake shore is insensitive and may actually disturb the wildlife in this area- it should be relocated if possible. The Leyland hedging inside the wall at Lough Conn is inappropriate in such a beautiful natural setting and should be transplanted to elsewhere in the Village.

LANDSCAPING

All of the flower beds along the main road looked very well maintained and colourful - well done ! More seating and development of amenities for visitors could be carried out along the shores of Lough Conn. It would be advisable to plant native vegetation along the stream as it is very bare-looking. More trees throughout the village would be a great feature.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The GAA pitch looked well and St. Josephs also was well presented. Brogans should replace their sign and improve the car park with better surfacing and some trees to break up the area. The shop opposite Brogans needs a sign (so we know what to call it !). The sub post office was very well-presented. A major problem for both visitors and residents is the lack of continuous footpaths through the centre of the village. This combined with the excessive speed of passing motorists creates a dangerous situation. Try to co-ordinate a plan for paths with the County Council.

LITTER CONTROL

It was good to see that the shop opposite Brogans has a litter bin outside. The litter bin in the Lough Conn car park was overflowing. It would seem that two bins are required here, and remember to empty them regularly. The litter bin outside the foodstore was also overflowing. In general, you need to watch the litter problem.

TIDINESS

Generally the standard of tidiness was good. All areas were generally well-maintained, but weeds were noted in the planting beds at the car park. Also, the gravel pit is a real eyesore - you should approach the owner with a view to screening this area and consult with the county planner about this matter.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The house to the left of the post office looks very well with its numerous planters. The house opposite the Lough Conn viewpoint is very well maintained. Houses on the approach roads were generally maintained to a good standard. Try to encourage owners living along the main road to plant trees in their front gardens, perhaps during National Tree Week.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Ballina approach starts well with the planting into the village and at the name sign, but the grass verges were not mown. Speed controls on the Ballina road are necessary as many people are speeding through the village. The boundary wall before Brogans is cracking and needs to be rendered. The fencing at the junction with Cloghans pier should be planted up. Along the Castlebar road there are too many signs in a row - the village sign is not standing out. The planting looks well here and the verges were neatly mown. The stone wall along the Castlebar road near the car park on Lough Conn looked very well.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There are a number of problem areas which were highlighted in the village - some of these are the responsibility of the community, others are the remit of your Council. Your efforts were noted, but you need to develop a strategy for the village in the years to come.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (10/08/96)

The village of Knockmore generally looked very neat and tidy on the day of second adjudication. The "slow through the village" sign on the Westport road was grubby and the broken sign on this road should be removed. However, the welcome to Knockmore" sign was well presented. In terms of tidiness the perspex telephone box was stained, while the litter bin in the car park at Lough Conn was overflowing. The charming church was admired. Although the display of antique agricultural equipment in Brogan's car park looked well, the inappropriate plastic signage could be replaced. As could the dated plastic signage to Hanley's Corner Foodstore.