

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **MULRANNY**  
County : **MAYO**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	23
The Built Environment	40	25
Litter Control	40	22
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>177</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

As your committee have already drawn up an outline plan, you will need to submit an action plan for the next 3-5 years with a specific strategy and schedule. Hopefully, your efforts to co-ordinate with the County Council should aid in developing this plan. It would seem that the beach, the wild area on Atlantic Drive, views from the Newport Road, and litter control are the main areas which you will need to target in your plan.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You mention that you have worked to preserve the salt marsh near the causeway, but there were no details submitted to explain how you have done this, which made it difficult for the adjudicators to assess. As Mulranny is situated among outstanding natural amenities, this is a category in which we expect you should strive to do more. You should consider developing the land opposite the school as a wildlife area. This would possibly include planting the corner of the beach road and the Achill Road. Invasive non-native plants such as the Rhododendrons could be removed and wildflower seeds could be planted. Mulranny Strand is another such area with great potential. There is a problem with illegally-parked caravans all around the strand. There was no sign prohibiting this and you must ask the County Council to control it or it could be an increasing problem for litter control. The wire fencing behind the lifeguard station is unattractive, perhaps you could persuade the owner to plant a hedge here. The signage and map was well-presented at the Strand, and is a good start.

### LANDSCAPING

The planting along Main Street looked very well. The bed around the Atlantic Drive sign on the Newport Road was maintained to a very high standard. You need to develop the school grounds further and this could involve the children in an educational programme. Trees are needed here and something like a butterfly garden would be beneficial for wildlife and enjoyable.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The town is greatly improving in this category. There were works to improve the much-criticised Shell garage in progress on adjudication day. A new roof was being added. The sign and pumps had not yet been improved, but compliments must be given for the lovely white flowers along the sea wall and the tubs filled with flowers at the pumps - well done! Moynish House looked very well and was impressive at the Achill end of town. The Centra looked very well, but it has too many stickers in the windows. The bus stop here looked well with its hanging baskets, but the bus sign has faded and is difficult to notice. The building to the left of Centra looked neglected and had dead hanging baskets. The post office would benefit from re-painting and better signage. The hanging baskets here were missing. Dalys shopfront looked well but the upper storey need freshening up. Campbells was very tidy and the hanging baskets were admired, but a traditional style sign is preferable. It would be a good idea to try to include the Irish language in the towns shopfronts, as you are on the edge of the Gaeltacht. The church and school looked well, but remember to pay attention to details, as the rusty gates to the right of the church need to be painted. The colours scheme of the school is very attractive.

### LITTER CONTROL

Some litter was visible along the pathway to the shore from the town. Litter was also noted in the vicinity of Dalys. A few more bins around this area and at the car park might help. The school and church area were free of litter - well done! The approach roads were remarkably litter-free, and the Atlantic Drive was in excellent order.

### TIDINESS

There was some dumping on the corner of the pathway to the shore from the town, so you will need to address this. There was excellent weed control on kerbs and walls along all approach roads. The car park opposite Campbells was generally tidy, but a few weeds were noticeable.

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The thatched house on the Newport Road was well-presented and hopefully other older cottages will be renovated to the same standard. Derelict house and yards facing the sea on the Newport Road should be cleaned up if possible and whitewashed. Try to encourage residents to plant more trees in their gardens, perhaps during National Tree Week. The planting at St. Brendans estate was unfinished, but you should pursue owners to mow their lawns. While it may be more difficult with owners of holiday homes to arrange regular maintenance, you could try to organise a sub-committee for residential areas. The garden to the left of Campbells looked very well. The 39 Steps B&B could plant some shrubs and flowers along the top edge of their wall as it is very prominent. A few houses on Atlantic Drive need to be re-painted.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All the approach roads were in good order. The grass verges were neatly mown and weed-free kerbs and walls gave a tidy impression of the town. The Newport Road was best - with the new stone walls complete and your boat planter and tubs adding colour and interest. The grass verges were recently cut and much improved. The seat in front of St. Brendans was freshly-painted - good job! The Ballycroy Road was well-maintained and the sign was very welcoming. The Atlantic Drive looked very well. The Achill Drive was very trim and tidy. The grass verges along the road up to St. Brendans estate had been recently cut. A culvert pipe was left by the side of the road was left here, and you should encourage developers to keep materials stored out of sight. Your marquee for the Mulranny Mediterranean Heather Festival was very lively, and you should consider signposting for this event on the Newport Road, where visitors can clearly see it. The beach road was well-maintained and grass verges mown. The only problem area is the row of derelict houses next to the strand at the bend in this road. You should consult with the County Council as to how these derelict sites may be put under control.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

You are making excellent progress in the buildings category, and the standard of maintenance of external areas is excellent. You need to think about a long term strategy for the development of the natural amenity areas in the town - keep up the good work !