

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NEWPORT-MAYO**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14
Landscaping	40	24
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	27
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	14
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	171

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

You need a development plan which is integrated and takes account of all the facets of the town, and which is environmentally sound. Speeding along the Castlebar road is a problem, and it is difficult to enjoy the Viaduct area with cars speeding up and down the road.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You need to develop some schemes in the category ,and you could consider developing wildflower meadows along the river bank. This would reduce the maintenance of some areas and would attract beneficial insects and birds. A butterfly garden at the school is another possibility. The most outstanding natural amenity is the park near the viaduct, and you should continue your efforts to enhance this area.

LANDSCAPING

The planting at the name sign on the Mulranny road and in front of the Jet station was noted. The planting around the viaduct on the Castlebar road is very attractive and is maintained to a very high standard - well done! The planting along the wall was very colourful and grass was neatly-mown, and walls were weed-free. The car park on Mellicott street looked very well. Some trees could be planted at the corner of Ballina road next to the Jet station. The hanging baskets along Main Street add a good atmosphere to the town - well done!

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The GAA grounds were very clean, but you could plant up the wall here as it is very bare-looking. The school looked well and was freshly painted. Attention is now needed to the ground - the light poles and fences need painting. You could consider some tree planting here. Chambers pub is very well presented and is an example for the town. Many of the properties in the town were well presented. Shopfronts are really improving on Main Street, in particular Chambers, Kellys, Geraghtys, Mc Gees, Country Sports. There are a number of premises which were mentioned in last years report which have still not responded to suggestions - more pressure is needed here !

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control in the town was generally good and the only problem area was with positioning of bins in strategic locations. You need a litter bin at the school entrance, and you need to consider the positioning of bins in the town on an ongoing basis. All litter bins were emptied on adjudication day.

TIDINESS

Generally kerbs and external areas were maintained to a very high standard - well done !

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses on the Castlebar road were well maintained and gardens were looking well on the day. The Anchor B&B was well presented to a high standard. Villarosa was also very attractive. Some homeowners are not mowing grass verges on Quay road below the housing estate. Windowboxes on houses along the Castlebar road were very well done. Most of the houses at Sea View had not been painted and grassed bank needs to be mown. You will need to work with the County Council on the open spaces. Try to form a sub-committee here.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Along the Mulranny road, there was fly posting and the margin was cut only on one side of the road.

Nearer to the town, the grass got higher. Along the Ballina road, grass verges were not mown. The town sign needs refinishing. The sheds opposite the GAA ground should be painted. Some tree planting could improve this area. Along the Westport road by the Quay, the yards should be screened with hedging on both sides. The tree planting here looked well. Grass was mown, the cart and planters looked well, but kerbs were a bit weedy. Stone walls and kerbs along Quay road were weed-free. There is great scope for improvement of the amenities here. The projecting sign for Walshes is very obtrusive and should be removed. The light standards on Medicott Street were very attractive, but you should not start hanging signs out of them. Some new street signage should be considered.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You are making good progress but need to focus on the detailed aspects of the maintenance of the town and on creating an overall development strategy which is environmentally sound. This was a good effort by all concerned - Well done !