

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **WESTPORT**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18
Landscaping	40	31
The Built Environment	40	32
Litter Control	40	29
Tidiness	20	17
Residential Areas	30	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	300	225

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The overall development approach is good. The plans submitted appear to concentrate on the built aspect of the town. More consideration should be given to ecological areas such as the edge with Clew Bay and the areas of woodland around the Town. There also needs to be more input from the Tidy Towns committee and the local community on the activities which they are organising and their aims and objectives. There is a problem with signage in the Town. There are too many B&B signs at junctions, which seems to be confusing visitors to the town. Try to balance commercialism with the enhancement of the Town in respect of signage. It is good to see that you are getting advice, but it would be best to generate some co-ordination with the owners of the B&Bs.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The development of the wildflower meadows along the railway line is commended - well done. There could be more attention given to the treatment of the Clew Bay seashore.

LANDSCAPING

Planting throughout the Town is lively and well maintained, especially admired was the bedding at the Octagon. The efforts of all the shopowners in the Town who displayed windowboxes and hanging baskets is highly commended and an example to other towns. The addition of windowboxes to the Town Hall would be a welcome enhancement. The new scheme at the Fairgreen was finished for adjudication day, but it must be said that the parking of cars and campers at the termination of the Mall, blocking the view to and from the row of terraced houses is an unwelcome feature. There was excellent work at the junction on Quay road and near the phone box on Quay road.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the shops and businesses in the Town are improved to such a high standard that general routine annual maintenance is all that it suggested. The floodlighting of the Church and the Mall bridges and trees is very attractive. There seems to be a great effort in renovating derelict and neglected buildings, especially on Castlebar Street and at the Quay. There were many shopfronts noted in particular for their exceptionally high standard of maintenance and floral display, namely The Old Railway Hotel, O' Grady's Pub on Castlebar Street, The Castlecourt Hotel on Castlebar Street, Mc Crealys butchers on Shop Street, SuperValu on Shop Street. On James's Street, Dunnings looks well with nice planting, Kilroys bodyworks is in need of paint and better signage. Litter bins here are full by the evening. Along the North Mall the tourist office could improve signage. Along the South Mall, the Church and adjoining buildings are in excellent order. The West pub is well maintained but should watch for litter outside. Along Bridge Street, the Westport Credit Union looks very well, as does Mc Greevey's, Shanley's. Mac Loughlin's has a good traditional sign. Mill Street is very grey and would benefit greatly from a colour scheme for the buildings and more floral displays.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control in the Town was very good. Unusually, many of the litter bins in the Town were full early in the a.m. It would seem that people are bringing in bags of rubbish in bins for collection. This puts a heavy demand on the litter bins in the Town and should be addressed by the Council. There was no litter in the main business areas or outlying areas. There were workmen in the River on adjudication day cleaning out algae growth.

TIDINESS

Generally, kerbs were weed free and streets were well swept - a very smart appearance. There was good progress on tackling fly posting - the Mc Bride monument was clean this year.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residential areas which were examined were mainly outside of the Town centre along the approach roads. The residential areas were presented to a very high standard both in and outside of the Town.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Along the Ballinrobe Road, the houses were presented to a good standard. The Railway station looks very well, especially the floral displays. Corcorans yard is unsightly and should be screened from view, grass margins trimmed as the Town name sign was overgrown, and some planting would also be an addition in this area. The Louisburgh road was very impressive, and benefits from the spectacular views to Clew Bay. Workers were seen cleaning and weeding this area on adjudication day. Excessive signage is a problem. The Leenane road was not very well maintained, with stone walls overgrown and grass verges not cut. The Newport road was generally well maintained, but again standard of verges could be better. There is great scope for planting along the Castlebar road, as it has a stark and windswept appearance. While the new tree planting was noted and looked well, you should encourage the residents of these areas to plant trees in their gardens to improve this approach. The new paving and bollards in the Town has improved the standard of Westports main streets and is commended.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The Town has improved significantly since last years adjudication, namely in the areas of litter control and tidiness. There has been a great effort by the UDC and the business community for this years competition and this effort can clearly be seen. Litter is under control but constant vigilance is needed to maintain the high standard which you have set.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (09/08/96)

The busy town of Westport was extremely impressive on a sunny and warm August afternoon, with an abundance of colourful floral displays. The Octagon, in particular, looked positively continental with its abundance of flowers and diners. However, some weeds were noted at the monument. The hoardings along the Castlebar/Dublin road should be removed as they create a very cluttered impression. The town nameplate sign on the Galway road was virtually obscured by overgrowth. It was generally quite littered throughout the town and the litter bins were quite grubby. The overflowing litter bin on the Mall opposite the Garda Station, in particular, was very dirty.