

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GRANGE**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12
Landscaping	40	22
The Built Environment	40	23
Litter Control	40	26
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	171

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

While the level of involvement of the town in your committee seems quite high, you will need to distribute your efforts more evenly. As up until now, you have focused on litter control, and this is highly commendable, as the results of your efforts are definitely noticeable. However, other aspects of the town, such as planting, the natural environment, and appearance of residential areas are also equally important. A long-term plan is needed which is comprehensive for the town and tackles serious issues such as dereliction which threaten the livelihood of the town. In this regard, you are advised to co-ordinate more with other organisations, particularly the County Council under the Urban Renewal scheme. Your regional tourism board could help you to seize some benefits from the numerous tourists who pass through your town without stopping. Also, do not overlook the potential to involve your local schools, as the children could learn from following your example and help you to achieve your goals.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You did not mention any works by the committee on this aspect of the town. It would seem that the town is favoured by the riverside setting near the main street and residential areas, so this could be enhanced by additional planting and perhaps footpaths between the bridges to provide access to the rivers at critical view points. You could also improve the wildlife potential by developing a wildlife garden at the school and be planting native trees and shrubs in the vicinity of the riverside park.

LANDSCAPING

Trees are needed at the riverside park. The car park is very stark and there are no trees to screen the side view of the houses. Also, the car park needs re-marking. Stone walls were well-maintained. The view from here to the mountains is very scenic and could be a great asset to the park. If there were more seats and picnic tables from which to enjoy the view, it would encourage tourists to stop in the town. The river banks could be cleared a bit on the park side to open a view to the water - just one point would be sufficient. The school grounds are immaculate but are quite stark. Many trees could be planted especially at the back to shelter the grounds. Flowering shrubs along the inside of the boundary wall would add interest

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the business premises were well-maintained. Willies Restaurant looks well. The wall beside Cloontys could use painting. Barrys and John Langs look very well. However, the row of buildings from Barrys is derelict and detracts from the town. Perhaps you could discuss with the County Council whether or not they can seize any of the derelict properties. Costellos should remove the gas tanks from the roadside as they detract from the appearance of the shop which looks very well otherwise. The Spar shop looks very well as does the yellow house down the road from it. Herrons needs to be painted and the plastic sign should be replaced with a more traditional one. J. Waters looks very well and enhances the junction in the town centre. The old pub at the first bridge to Pine Grove could be re-painted.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was excellent throughout the town on adjudication day during a busy summer weekend. Excellent work on litter control.

TIDINESS

Generally, the town was very tidy on adjudication day. Derelict areas need attention, as do some of the walls near Pine Grove, so you should plan on improving these areas.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the houses along the main road are maintained to a very high standard and with great care. At Pine Grove, many trees were dying from lack of attention to weeding and watering. The estate is litter-free, but some boundary walls and fences are in bad repair. The estate wall along the roadside looks very well. The concrete block wall along the road to Pine Grove could be painted.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach from Sligo could be improved by planting more shrubs and trees. At Sligo Aluminium there is a gate in need of repair. You should consider consulting with the County Council about installing speed controls to slow traffic down, as many people were speeding through the town. There were no footpaths and kerbs along this road, and trees are needed. A long-term plan is needed for this road. There were broken fences at the warehouse which is currently for sale, which gives a poor impression as one enters the town. The grass verges were cut on the main road and this is a great improvement on last year.

The Bundoran road was well-kept and litter-free. Grass verges were mown and the road looked tidy. Some planting along this road would be a good idea to create a welcoming approach. The derelict house on the Bundoran approach road on the left side spoils the view toward Ben Bulbin. The chain-link fencing on both sides is rather unappealing, and perhaps the owners could plant hedging to screen this. The first bridge to Pine Grove and the walls here could be improved by repairs and possibly white-washing.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

More trees are needed throughout the Town. Try to develop a plan of approach to the development of amenities. You should also talk to the Council re traffic calming in the Town.