

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MULLAGHMORE**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18
Landscaping	40	27
The Built Environment	40	21
Litter Control	40	21
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	168

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is difficult to determine the level of involvement in the community, but your figure of eight members is quite low. It would seem that the population of the town has expanded beyond 200 people, and we suggest that you obtain an updated figure for the purposes of planning for the future. It is commendable that you are working with the County Council, but, surprisingly, you do not mention any co-ordination with the regional tourism board. As many holiday-makers visit Mullaghmore already, perhaps you do not see the need, but it would be useful to examine the visitor facilities the town offers and to develop this aspect. We would recommend that you devise a five-year action plan and try to co-ordinate as much as possible with these organisations.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your awareness of the rare flora in the stone walls of The Burrow is commendable, and we look forward to details about how you plan to manage this area. The most obvious natural amenity is the beautiful sandy beach at Mullaghmore, and you should include in any development plan a specific strategy for safeguarding the cleanliness of this beach and controlling access to the sensitive dunes area and shoreline.

LANDSCAPING

Picnic area no. 1 looked very tidy and was in heavy use during adjudication day. The second picnic area was coming on well, although the new stone beds were still under construction. It is wise to develop the viewpoints on this road, as they are spectacular. It may be necessary to plan for creating a lay-by near the second picnic area as parking is in demand at this point. The grass in the harbourside park was recently mown and weed control was excellent. Most of the boats in the harbour are very well-maintained, and this enhances the whole scene. The only break in this spectacular view is the roofline of the Pier Head Hotel, and maintenance of this prominent building is crucial to views from the park. A few large specimen trees are needed at the harbourside park, as there is no shade to sit under and the whole scene is somewhat flat. Careful species selection and location of trees would enhance the views to the bay, and we suggest you seek professional advice in planning this.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Beach Hotel looked very well as did Eithnas Restaurant. The side wall of the shop next to Eithnas Restaurant needs re-painting and the building behind it should also be painted, which would improve the view along the coast road. Pier Head House will need freshening up for next year. The convent was very well-kept as was the green area next to it. Your approach to re-introduce the traditional style wooden gates is successful and the new gates are very attractive.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was excellent in the harbour area, and this is a good reflection on your committee as this area was thronged with tourists on adjudication day. Litter was noticeable on the verges of the Bundoran approach road. There was some litter at both picnic areas and you will need to provide litter bins at picnic sites to prevent it from getting out of control.

TIDINESS

Although the town generally presents a tidy appearance, there are a few problem areas which must be mentioned. The boat trailers next to the first picnic area look messy and should be removed from this location and the walls here re-painted. Some gravel was dumped at the side of the road just uphill of Breffni Road, creating an untidy appearance.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many of the houses along the top road to Classiebawn Castle looked very well. The Anchor Cottage was especially admired and sets a high standard. The Den (house on the hill) is very well-maintained.

Houses along the Breffni Road are generally well-presented, but a few of the front gardens were not maintained, presumably because they are holiday homes and the owners are not there on a regular basis. The boundary wall of the white house opposite Breffni Road should be painted, as should the wall at the corner of the road. Trees or hedgerows could be planted around the field below Breffni Road and above the houses here. There are very few trees on this slope and it is a bit stark in places. Careful planning to preserve scenic views will be needed to plant this slope successfully.

Most of the houses near the town were in good order. The house to the right of the green at the convent needs painting.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The grass verges on the Bundoran approach road were well-mown and maintained. The name sign with the flowers is a welcoming touch to this approach. The stone walls near Classiebawn Castle were still under construction on adjudication day but looked to be progressing well. You should consider planting the bank opposite the view to Donegal Bay with shrubs. The grass verges were well-maintained along the coast road - a sign that you have paid attention as suggested in previous reports. The grass verges on the road to the schoolhouse were not mown recently and should be attended to. The Breffni Road had some weedy kerbs and the wire fencing along this road should be cleared of brambles and planted with shrubs. The road uphill of Breffni Road needs re-surfacing. Grass verges on the top road near the gate to Classiebawn Castle were mown and looked well. However, some of the gates in this locality need painting and the walls should be cleared and repaired to create an attractive and tidy approach.

As you are aware, the telegraph poles are unsightly and the streetscape of the town would be greatly enhanced by their removal. Perhaps you should make the county planner aware of your difficulties with this matter.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You are making good progress in the maintenance/ development of landscape areas and grass verges. Litter control requires some attention as do housing areas. You should think about a development plan for the Town and also try to get more people involved in the committee.