

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LOCH GOWNA**
County : **CAVAN**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	38
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	22	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	219	213

Loch Gowna, Co. Cavan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The Loch Gowna Tidy Towns Association is evidently a committed and enthusiastic one, witnessed by its marvellous attention to detail throughout the village on a sunny June adjudication day. The support of the entire community on the general presentation of the village is obvious and we are looking forward to reading your village enhancement plan next year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both public and commercial premises throughout the village of Loch Gowna were presented to a high standard on the day. In terms of the former the Post Office and St. Brigid's Hall were both very fresh looking and the school was well presented. However the surface of its forecourt area was in bad condition. Both the churches on the Arvagh and Longford Roads were well maintained. However the former could be freshened before next year's competition and the boundary wall to the latter could be freshened up. Grounds to all public buildings were immaculately maintained. The Aircell factory building was quite stained and could also be freshened up as could its boundary wall. The inappropriate plastic signage to the side of the very fresh village stores should be replaced by that of a more traditional timber variety.

LANDSCAPING

Both formal and incidental landscaped areas looked well maintained and virtually manicured throughout the village. The magnificent displays of colourful hanging baskets (even hanging from lamp standards) and the boat containing its marvellous floral display to a well maintained grassy area of the village crossroads were of particular note. The picnic area by the tennis courts and the handball alley were well maintained with its timber railed fence. The timber benches beyond the tennis courts, although slightly battered had a neat appearance. The open space to the Longford Road could have been more neatly cut although the chain link fence and concrete posts were freshly painted. The incidental open space of landscaping with its display of colourful and fragrant sweet williams outside a house on the Granard Road, by the speed limit sign, was charming.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The village of Loch Gowna is extremely fortunate in its unrivalled location on a series of fractured lakes and rolling hillsides. The only note of warning in this regard would be to ensure that hedge clipping, while showing glorious views to the lakes, does not disturb the multitude of birdlife during nesting time.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was excellent on the day. The village was virtually free of papers and rubbish.

TIDINESS

The overall impression created by the village of Loch Gowna was of a neat and spruce appearance. This manifested itself in the presentation of every aspect of the village. One or two areas of detail that should be attended to are - the hand-ball alley which could be freshly painted before next year's competition and the tin roof to a shed beside a house on the Granard Road, which would look better were it painted in a traditional red colour. Weed control on the day was good, the only weeds evident were those to a new house on the Arvagh Road, which presumably will be removed soon, following completion of construction work.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses throughout the village looked bright and cheerful on adjudication day. The magnificent displays of colourful hanging baskets, window boxes and manicured gardens were a delight to behold! The residents of Loch Gowna show an obvious pride in their properties.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category was reasonably good on adjudication day. The winding curving roads into the village from all directions with their stunning views to the lakeside are an attractive entry into the village. A boundary wall to a field on the Granard Road could be freshened up and the verges were reasonably well trimmed, as were the verges on the Cavan Road. The wild foxgloves, ferns and swooping swifts were admired on the Arvagh Road. As were the wild roses and ferns in the hedgerows along the Longford Road. Signage throughout the village was immaculate on adjudication day, bar the nameplate sign on the Arvagh Road which was very faded on its rusty pole. The junction sign on this road was also quite rusty.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village of Loch Gowna, set as it is in magnificent lakeside scenery, was a pleasure to visit on a warm and sunny June day. It was smartly presented in its simple but effective and unforced way. It should perform extremely well in the competition in the years to come.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/97)

The lakeside scenery provides a lovely setting for the village. More access to the lake would be attractive. There is a very good standard of presentation of the buildings. The tennis court/handball area would benefit from extra attention. Individual houses and gardens in the village are very important in contributing to the overall view.