

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **AHASCRAUGH**  
County : **GALWAY**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	25
The Built Environment	40	23	21
Landscaping	40	20	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	11
Litter Control	40	22	20
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	6	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>149</b>

## **Ahascragh, County Galway**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your completed entry form and also for the copy of your work programme. You have set reasonable targets for yourselves which should be easily reached, providing you get the assistance of the relevant bodies. As this is only your second year in the competition you are to be congratulated for the work you have achieved to-date. By having the entire community working together you will succeed. Your village is steeped in history and is indeed a lovely place to visit, but most importantly it must firstly be a lovely place to live. The concept of the Tidy Towns is not just to make a place attractive for visitors, but firstly for you the residents.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The business community are indeed doing their part in presenting the village to a high standard. Brookside Shop, Cahills, Liam Kelly and Katie Daly's Pub all look most colourful with their hanging baskets. Its amazing how window boxes and hanging baskets add such colour to an area. A good effort has been made to board up T. Wibills premises. I appreciate the problem you have with derelict sites in your village. This is indeed a major problem in towns and villages in the West of Ireland. I know that the Derelict Sites Act is in place but I think that your softly softly approach might be more successful. It is such a pity that the owners of the mill are not interested in restoring it. It is such a focal point for the village. It would help if the bags which are evident here could be put out of sight. The Church grounds, School and Community Hall are nicely maintained. The grounds to the front and side of the health care centre could do with a little attention. Also Flaherty's Statoil, Frankies and Mace Supermarket are nicely presented. Brennans garage on the other hand could do with a bit of a face lift. The Garda Barracks and the pump could do with a fresh coat of paint. This was pointed out to you last year and it is a pity that last year's adjudicators comments have not yet been acted on. The grotto looks very attractive.

### **LANDSCAPING**

It would appear that I was in your village prior to you implementing your plans for planting around the Failte Signs. Some weed control is necessary by the Bridge. You will not be deducted marks this year as perhaps you were not aware that the first adjudication takes place in early June. However, I look forward to seeing this work carried out next year.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

You are fortunate to have the walking area at the avenue. Hopefully it is being enjoyed by both visitor and resident. You should identify the wildlife habitats of your catchment area and see what species of animals and birds these attract. You would be surprised at discovering the number and extent of these habitats.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control was very good on adjudication day. Well done on your initiative to involve the school children. Everyone must, however, play their part in making Ahascragh a "Litter Free Zone". Litter does not just happen, it is caused.

## **TIDINESS**

The village looks neat and tidy. I think your promotion offering 10% discount on the various products is an excellent idea and again it shows co-operation in the community. I hope that many people availed of this promotion. Your plans to erect a natural stone information board in both languages should certainly gain extra marks in future competitions.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The welcome to the Soccer Club sign looks very nice. The houses on the approach and in the village are nicely maintained. Continue to encourage everybody to decorate their homes and to maintain their gardens. The flower tubs at the entrance to the Mill look nice, but as already mentioned more needs to be done here.

## **ROADS, STREET AND BACK AREAS**

The approach roads are well maintained and neat and trim. However, as already pointed out the base of the signs require attention. Generally the stone walls throughout are very impressive.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

I enjoyed my visit to your lovely village and I hope that I will have an opportunity to visit it again and to see your development plans implemented. Congratulations on having achieved an increase of seven marks. Given that an increase of even one mark is very hard earned, you have achieved great success in your second year. Continue to work closely with FAS, the County Council, etc. and I wish you continued success.