

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ATHENRY**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	30
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	17	15
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	20
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	193	185

Athenry, County Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for completing the entry form together with a copy of your development plan - phase 5. There is very little which can be added to this year's report which was not said last year. The marks you received last year were not based on prior year's marks, as entirely new adjudication criteria were introduced last year. However, the marks you received were indeed very high when compared with other towns. These high marks were awarded totally on merit and for hard work and commitment. The people of Athenry can be very proud of their achievement to-date. Now that your 5 year plan is complete you must not become too complacent as constant monitoring is required. Access roads, approach roads, litter, built environment etc. require constant attention.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Suffice to say that the business community are very active in presenting their premises to a high standard. As is the case in all big towns there are always the few who do not pull their weight. There are some business premises which could do with a fresh coat of paint, provide some window boxes, remove plastic signs etc. I do not consider it necessary to name them as I feel confident they know who I am referring to. It is very important that all business premises are presented to a high standard. Athenry is fast becoming a popular tourist destination and with the increase in building both residential and commercial tourist accommodation, it will go from strength to strength.

LANDSCAPING

The landscape both in and around Athenry is very pleasing. The array of stone flower beds, the tree planting, the window boxes are all delightful. Trees are the most important plants in the urban landscape. The siting of ornamental trees in towns and villages is a key aspect. Each tree should have a purpose. Relatively few towns and villages have enough trees. Very careful study should go into placing trees.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is good to see that you are working with the local angling club and helping to clean and restock the river. Also you should identify the wildlife habitats of your catchment area and see what species of animals, birds and fish these attract. Examine ways to make nature more accessible and enjoyable for both locals and visitors, perhaps by developing a nature trail.

LITTER CONTROL

Generally litter control is good in the town. However, there was quite an amount of litter in the street by the Post Office. Also the litter bin at the Post Office was overflowing. I can sympathise with

you and understand how you can become disheartened with litter louts. There is a great need for vigilance in a world of ever increasing consumption. There is a great supply of litter bins strategically placed throughout the town. Don't despair; for such a busy town you would appear to have the problem reasonably well under control.

TIDINESS

Your re-cycling facilities are well located and easily accessed. Full marks for the project "Home Composting and Civic Amenity Site at Athenry". It will be interesting to see the results of the questionnaire.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The Private Houses on the approach roads and in the housing estates are mostly presented to a very high standard. Pressure will have to be put on those people who are not maintaining their homes to a good standard. It is important that lawns be kept neat and tidy, and boundary walls be painted and all open spaces by kept well cut back.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads are generally well maintained. On a personal note, I would suggest that sometime in the future (funds permitting) you should replace your Welcome Signs with more traditional ones, maybe ones set in stone. I think that they would blend in better with the landscape. The street furniture and the flower beds at the Gairm Scoil look nice. The green area at Caheroyn Park and also the entrance to the house are impressive. The stone walls throughout the town look great. The Castle is a wonderful amenity and hopefully it is enjoyed by everyone. The entrance to Caheroyn Drive looks lovely; the flower planting adds great colour here. The Presentation Sports Field is nicely maintained. I should mention the houses all along this road look lovely, particularly Reilly's cottage. The flower stone beds here look great. The station is nice with the window boxes and tubs. The derelict house is nicely camouflaged on the road leading down to Lady's Well. The well itself is a nice amenity. Major work was being carried out on adjudication day. The gates of the cemetery are still not painted. The nursing home is a credit to the owners. The flower tubs look very nice, but a lot of work is required here.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Your town has the potential to succeed at national level. It will not happen overnight as you well know. However, you have achieved so much over the last 5 years and I believe you will achieve even greater things in the next 5 years. With the continued goodwill and co-operation of the community you will succeed.