

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **AUGHRIM-GALWAY**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	174	169

Aughrim, County Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for completing the entry form and for enclosing the map and sketch of your village. As was suggested to you last year you should produce a plan of action highlighting what you consider to be important for your village. This need not be a very elaborate plan, a simple 3-5 page document will suffice. This is a requirement if you are to succeed in the competition. Adopt realistic objectives; a limited number of targets which are achievable each year is far more likely to yield results.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Each business is making a very good effort to present their premises to a very high standard. The hanging baskets and window boxes are most colourful and really enhance the village. The Aughrim Inn, Dillon's, Durkan's, and Hynes Hostel look very attractive, as do the Post Office, Finns Bar and Burkes Store. The Aughrim Interpretative Centre as always looks so well, and the grounds are very well maintained. Again the open area opposite is very overgrown. I understand that there is a problem with ownership, but it really does detract from this lovely centre. The Community Hall is well presented and looked neat and tidy.

LANDSCAPING

Generally the landscape in and around the village looks very attractive. Perhaps you should consider planting more trees. The siting of ornamental trees in towns and villages is a key aspect. Each tree should have a purpose. The trees which are planted at the entrance into the village look very nice, but the grass paths should be cut and be manicured better.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is good that you will plant native trees and plants to encourage wildlife, but you should also identify the wildlife habitats of your area and see what species of animals and birds these attract. There is such a variety of wildlife in every town and village it is just a case of identifying them. Perhaps a local expert could be invited to join the Tidy Towns committee to assist you here. Further down the road you could perhaps develop a nature trail and make nature more enjoyable for the residents and visitors alike.

LITTER CONTROL

Generally litter control is very good throughout the village. There is a good supply of litter bins and I love the way the centre is advertised on them. It is good to see that a conscious effort is being made here.

TIDINESS

The village looks relatively tidy, with a few exceptions. As is the case in most villages in the West of Ireland there is a problem with

derelict houses. This is such a pity as it really does take from the general appearance. Continue trying to have the situation remedied.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As always a good individual effort is being made here under this category. It is so important that each householder presents their home to a high standard. Walls should be painted and gardens well maintained.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

I always have felt that there should be a sign on the left hand side of the road as one approaches Aughrim from Ballinasloe. One could easily miss the village on the Dublin Approach. The area by the pump could be better presented with a little imagination. The work being undertaken at the Trinity Church is noted. The Hillside Nursing Home deserves special mention - it is a credit to all involved.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

I would urge you to put together a development plan. You have a lovely village. Get the entire community involved in the competition. The village is so neat and compact. You have all of the ingredients to succeed. Keep up the good work and continued success for the future.