

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **HEADFORD**  
County : **GALWAY**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	26
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	11
Litter Control	40	23	22
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>165</b>

## **Headford, Co. Galway**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

It would appear that there is not a lot of interest in the Tidy Towns Competition in Headford. Not only did you not produce a development plan, but you did not complete the entry form. Completing the first page which is really only the cover is not good enough. The entire entry form must be completed - I think that the development association and all of the other relevant bodies should come together and decide the way forward for Headford. Ideally your plan should be simple and should cover a period of 3 - 5 years and you should set out clearly your objectives for each year. Adopt realistic objectives and target a limited number of jobs to be achieved each year. You must get the entire community involved if you are to succeed. Headford has great potential with wonderful natural amenities.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Like all towns and villages you too have your share of derelict premises. The one next to Michael Ryder's looks particularly bad. If the owners cannot be located perhaps the committee should establish if they could paint it. You should take a look at how Kinvara have tried to camouflage their derelict premises in the town. With a little imagination these eyesores can be made to look a little better. The business premises generally are presented to a good standard. The GAA park looks very well and the facade of the toilet block is good. The Garda Barracks could do with a fresh coat of paint. The Thatch Pub, Joyce's Supermarket, Statoil Service Station, Varley's, Anglers Rest and the funeral home - to name but a few - are all presented to a good standard.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The window boxes and hanging baskets are very attractive and colourful. Your tree planting throughout is good. Trees are the most important plants in the urban landscape. Relatively few towns and villages have enough trees. The siting of ornamental trees in areas is a key aspect. Each tree or group of trees should have a purpose. It is most important that all of your planting be well maintained.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

You should identify the wildlife habitats of your catchment area and see what species of animals, birds and fish these attract. You could plant native berry producing trees and shrubs. Properly managed natural areas and wildlife will add greatly to the area you are presenting.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Generally the town has good litter control. There are some nice litter bins at the Church but the blue bins should be discarded as they serve no purpose. There is a good supply of litter bins throughout. This is a very important aspect of the competition and

everybody must play their part in keeping their own area litter free. You should strive to have a litter free town. Well done to all involved.

## **TIDINESS**

Kerbsides are well maintained. However, the problems with dereliction, as mentioned earlier, must be addressed.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Most private residence are presented to a good standard. There are some beautiful houses on the approach roads with beautifully manicured gardens. It is very important to keep the houses painted. There are some lovely new houses being built in Headford. The stone wall at the Ross Errily Development looks great.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The approach roads are well maintained. The grass verges are well cut back. The area around the welcome sign on the Cong approach is overgrown. More attention is needed at all of the nameplates on approaches. You should strive to have uniform Welcome Signs.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

As stated already, put your plan together. Headford has a lot to offer and with a little imagination it could be a most pleasing and interesting place to visit. Good luck for the future.