

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TUAM**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	19	18
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	23	20
Tidiness	20	9	8
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	13	12
General Impression	10	5	4
TOTAL MARK	300	162	153

Tuam, Co. Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your comprehensive entry form and background information. We look forward to receiving your Five Year Development Plan. The plan which can be modified as circumstances dictate, will help co-ordinate and focus the efforts of all the community and give them a sense of involvement. Please remember the final plan need not be a sophisticated document. It is good to see that you have expanded the Committee to eighteen members; this will ensure the workload is shared. A lot of work is required to progress in the competition and it does take time, hard work and effort.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Commercial property owners should be encouraged to replace plastic signs. The majority of commercial buildings look well; these include St. Jarlath's Credit Union, Feely's Pharmacy, Imperial Hotel, Post Office and House, The Abbey, O'Grady's, Cre na Cile, Scoil Naisiunta Muire na Toirbheartha and Delia's Hair Salon. However, some other properties are disappointing and proprietors or management should be encouraged to make some effort: these include ACC Bank, DH Burke Supermarkets, AIB Bank, Supermacs, Bank of Ireland and Clarkes Furniture. Consideration should be given to making more of a feature of the Town Hall in the Square due to its prime location in the centre of town.

LANDSCAPING

Your five year plan should include a programme of additional landscaping throughout Tuam. The Palace Grounds looked well and work was ongoing on the river on day of adjudication. Both Cathedral grounds looked well as did the riverfront area of the Mill. Further developing and landscaping of green areas within the town and on the approach roads is recommended. Individual residents are also making an effort with colourful planting and a variety of shrubs on the approach roads. The addition of planting or trees at the front of the Garda Station should be considered.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is good to see that the Mill Museum Wildlife project is still operational following the introduction of Mallard to the river. Your latest update informing us that this project has also attracted other species such as Water Hens and Kingfishers to the area is good news. While the area immediately at the Mill looked well on adjudication day the river just over the bridge was very untidy. We would encourage you to seek and identify other wildlife habitats in the Town and include these in your five year programme.

LITTER CONTROL

There was no major evidence of litter on adjudication day.

However, there was litter scattered around the large car park at the Telecom Mast and outside Burke's supermarket on the Dublin Road. This year we are acknowledging the efforts which have been made in the litter control area but it is important not to get complacent. Proper litter control is vital and Tuam appears to be now tackling the problem and is looking the better for it. Keep up the good work.

TIDINESS

Traffic congestion with bad parking is a problem in Tuam with the focal point being the immediate Square area. Drivers should be encouraged to use the car parks; perhaps car parking in the town centre should be limited. If additional pedestrian areas were available this would create an appearance of space and tidiness and encourage people to walk about your town and enjoy it. The cluttering of footpaths and roadsides with material from commercial premises and sandwich display boards should be discouraged. It can lead to difficulty with access for the disabled and also give an appearance of untidiness.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Your effort to involve designated committee members to co-ordinate work in their respective areas is important especially regarding residential areas. On adjudication day it is very obvious that some residents are making a great effort and others very little. The planting of shrubs or flowers add colour to an open area. Residents of individual houses and gardens should be encouraged to participate and support their neighbours by painting their homes or at least planting some flowers or putting up window boxes etc. The new tree planting looks well. The planting of additional trees where practical and in the right locations should be encouraged.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads to Tuam are improving. Road verges and footpaths should be kept free of weeds. The Timber Co. screening and flowers on the Galway road look well. In general old stone walls should be restored and maintained. The stone walls when completed on the Ballgaddy Road will enhance this approach road. Rear and side areas of properties should be screened off. The new stone walls, landscaping and river bank improvements at Abbeytrinity will look well when completed.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It is vital that the wider community of Tuam support the work of the Tidy Towns Committee. The co-operation and assistance of the local authorities is very important but the wider community must accept ownership and responsibility for the work involved. The Five Year Plan will assist your efforts and will also identify the achievements and work you carry out yearly. Many other towns and villages throughout Ireland have gone through this process and their towns are the better for it. The town of Tuam is no different. Build on your strengths and your achievements to date and go forward. Good Luck.

