

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KNOCKLONG**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 26-07-97

|                                | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1997 | Mark Awarded 1996 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50           | 31                | 29                |
| The Built Environment          | 40           | 27                | 27                |
| Landscaping                    | 40           | 26                | 26                |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30           | 17                | 17                |
| Litter Control                 | 40           | 30                | 29                |
| Tidiness                       | 20           | 12                | 12                |
| Residential Areas              | 30           | 22                | 22                |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 40           | 29                | 29                |
| General Impression             | 10           | 7                 | 6                 |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>300</b>   | <b>201</b>        | <b>197</b>        |

## **Knocklong, Co. Limerick**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the detailed responses to the questionnaire together with your concise map which made it easy for this adjudicator to identify parts of Knocklong that were previously unknown to him. Once again the level of contact you have with FAS, Ballyhoura Failte and other local organisations is to be commended and the benefits can be seen in the way the village looked on adjudication day. I think that it would benefit the committee if they put together a simple 3 year workplan; in this way the strengths and weaknesses could be identified and acted upon where necessary. Knocklong is an attractive village with potential to do even better in future competitions.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The standard in this category was good. The Church was presented well as was the Grotto. The graveyard was also clean and tidy. The school was recently painted and the grounds were extremely well presented. Quirke's shop opposite the church had pleasant hanging baskets and was clean and tidy. The main business premises were in excellent shape and the owners are to be commended. Dooley's Garage and Forecourt, Molly Dawson's and the Credit Union Building deserve special mention. Unfortunately, there are a number of negatives; for instance, there seems to be ongoing problems with the Railyard and Station House; Iarnrod Road Eireann need to be consulted to see if any accommodation can be reached. The Railway Hotel needs a fresh coat of paint to make it more presentable - it is an impressive building with a long historical significance with Knocklong. Walsh's Foodstore needs to be refurbished to return it to its former glory.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The standard was pretty good and work was taking place on adjudication day. The planting arrangement on the hilltop near the Quarry was admired as was the rockery at the top of both the Church and Hill roads with its colourful array of flowers. The restoration of stonewalls and shrub planting at the bridge is welcomed. All planted areas were very well maintained as were the green areas in the village. The stone flowerbeds at road signs were very colourful. It is important to continue this programme of work over the coming years so as the village which is very attractive can benefit further.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The best advice one can give to the committee is to seek out advice from local conservationists as to the species of wildlife that inhabit the area. There is potential to develop a number of nature walks or trails from the village; this is only one suggestion. The committee should give greater significance to this category over the next few years.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter was well under control on adjudication day; congratulations to all who participate in the weekly clean up. The adjudicator noticed that there were rubbish bins placed strategically around the village.

## **TIDINESS**

The standard of presentation in this category was quite good overall. The Railway Station yard is an ongoing problem that will have to be addressed sooner rather than later; otherwise it is going to deteriorate even further. There are a number of yards especially around the Hill and Church Roads that could be improved upon

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The standard of presentation of private dwellings and gardens was very good. The terrace of houses adjacent to the sportsfield were kept in immaculate condition, some having lovely mature gardens. The estate of houses at the railway bridge was also in good condition but lacked vibrancy. The former Rent an Irish Cottage close was in excellent condition and is now maturing into a residential area. The connecting road from the church to the centre of the village came in for a little criticism last year and there has not been much improvement since then.

## **ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The approach roads into Knocklong were presented to a high standard especially the Limerick Road with its flower beds and recently trimmed verges. The village is rather scattered and the internal connecting roads generally were well maintained. Unfortunately, the church road was very potholed and needs to be temporarily repaired at least. The signs, both name and directional, were in very good condition.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The village of Knocklong has the potential to do very well in the competition in the coming years. The committee has worked hard to get all sections of the community involved in the tidy towns effort and are to be commended. There are still areas of concern but these should be seen as challenges to be overcome for the betterment of the village and the surrounding area. Keep up the good work.