

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BELCARRA**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	38
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	31	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	229	219

Belcarra, County Mayo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your Development Plan, background information/entry form, map and photographic record. It is obvious all the community are involved and working towards the common goal of improving Belcarra's position in the Tidy Towns Competition. It is important you review your work each year while continuing to work on new projects and maintaining a check on existing developments.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It is good to see commercial properties are continuing to be improved. Cunningham's, Corless, Esso/Heneghan's, Roche's and Flukie's Cosy Bar looked well. The dance hall should introduce some planting around the building. The school looked very well with its colourful array of window boxes and hanging baskets. The business premises in this area are well maintained. The work on the old derelict buildings in the village was noted. The Church and grounds, the Community Centre and the surrounding area looked very well.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping throughout the village looks very well. The amenity area down at the river by Grianan Mhuire houses looked well with its creepers and planting. Additional planting should be done on the area to the left as you face the river. The Church Grounds are well maintained and colourful; the areas in front of the Community Centre and at the Grotto look well. The landscaping and planting on the approach roads are bright and welcoming. The common was peaceful and well maintained.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

We look forward to the results of the flora and fauna study you propose to undertake. Wildlife conservation and natural amenities are an ideal subject for the local national school pupils to partake in and even provide a small natural habitat for wildlife in the area.

LITTER CONTROL

The river amenity area must be watched for litter, as on adjudication day some litter was in evidence in this area and in the river. There was no major evidence of litter around the village on adjudication day.

TIDINESS

There is a high standard of tidiness throughout the Village and weeds appear to be under control. It is important that an eye is kept on derelict properties as your work on these areas adds to the tidiness and neatness factor of Belcarra. The tall grass at Nestors in the immediate vicinity of the stone walls should be cut

back.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of presentation of residential properties is very high. The work on the neglected houses is noted. The housing scheme at Grianan Mhuire looks well also. The private house on the Castlebar road with its creepers, shrubs and flower tubs was very well presented. The residential properties in the Village centre also look well. The addition of some extra hanging baskets and window boxes on those without any would help the streetscape.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Your stone wall programme is progressing well and these add to the character of the Village, well done. The approach roads are all attended to and look very well. On the Castlebar approach road the Belcarra sign was missing at the flower bed. Roadside gravel mounds outside houses should be discouraged.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Belcarra is maintaining its progress in the competition. More hard work lies ahead. Watch your weak areas but keep up the effort and the community spirit. Good Luck.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (6/8/97)

The submitted development plan will be of great benefit to you as a check list against which to measure progress. The village is now at a high level in the competition, meaning that rigorous attention must be paid to any remaining problem areas. The building of 300 metres of stone walling over the past year is a highly commendable achievement. Indeed, the stone walls are now a great asset of the village together with the mature trees which you have inherited. Perhaps, for next year you might attend to the disappearing wall on the Castlebar approach. The stone wall in front of the tennis court is always admired as it successfully reduces the impact of the wire enclosure. The dance hall will need freshening up before next year's competition. In general the buildings are well kept, just as grass is well mown. Nonetheless, there were a few yards quite visible from the village centre which were less than perfect. Litter was not a significant problem - just a few papers were noted! The screen planting to the premises set back from the road past the post office will be effective as it matures; the containers, etc. in this area are unfortunate!.