

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **WESTPORT**  
County : **MAYO**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 18-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	37
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	33	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	27	29
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>225</b>

## **Westport, County Mayo**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your comprehensive document outlining the objectives, problems, on going programmes and recent works undertaken in Westport. Your efforts to date are to be commended; further progress will only occur if the greater Community (business and private) fully support and participate in your work. The various proposals are noted; however this report will be based on what is in evidence on the day of adjudication.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

All the Hotels are making an effort and look well. The majority of business premises and shops all look well and certainly are making an effort; well done. The remaining property owners should be encouraged to improve their properties or at least decorate and add floral displays. A facility has been provided for property owners to get expert advice on appropriate design guidelines particularly on building facades. Owners should avail of this. The Mill Street area is still weak in terms of colour and buildings requiring attention. Herterich's shop on this Street looks well. A number of premises on James Street are neglected and these should be tackled as it would improve the streetscape enormously. The improvements along the Mall when completed will enhance this area along the river.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The re-landscaped and improved Fairgreen looks very well and is a fine addition to this area of the town. The planting and bedding throughout the town especially at the Octagon is colourful, well presented and maintained. Proposals for the planting of trees on the town's streets is to be encouraged, especially James Street, Church Street, Mill Street, as this would greatly improve the streetscape. The landscaping throughout the Allergan Company grounds is well maintained and very well presented.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Due to its location, Westport lends itself for the further investigation of its wildlife, woodland, wetland and coastal habitats, all on its doorstep. Your ecological enhancement programme currently being implemented including the planting of wild flower seed at the entrance to Westport House Demesne, on the redundant rail line and the provision of a Wildlife Information Board at the main entrance to Westport House Demesne is the right way to proceed.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control appears to be a problem in Westport. Entering the park area off James street litter was on the ground in the laneway to the amenity area, litter was scattered about the grass and broken glass bottle remnants and beer cans lay about the park. The litter bin was broken with litter on the ground. The river

bed had some litter and a number of beer cans in it. The areas behind the public library, the public toilets and at the river bank were untidy and had some litter and cans. The corner of Bridge Street and the Mall had litter and cans on the footpath. The lounge bar on this corner was not helping matters as the outdoor tables had litter and empty cans lying about. There were at least two beer cans in the River at the Mall. In the public car park off Mill Street the recycling bins for cans and bottles is a good facility. However, the clothes bank unit was overflowing and there was litter throughout the car park including plastic bags. Bridge Street had small amounts of litter on the left hand side going towards Shop Street. Litter was also evident on Shop Street near the Supermarket. There was evidence of litter from the intersection of Church Street up the hill in the direction of the quay area for approx 200 metres. The pond area at the quay has some litter and a few cans on the green area. The walk along the old disused railway line had litter and beer cans scattered about, which is a pity as the area is being developed as a natural amenity. Litter has to be better monitored and controlled otherwise Westport will continue to loose marks.

## **TIDINESS**

It is important that kerbs and the base of street walls are keep free of weeds. While the streets may have been swept, weeds and litter give an untidy appearance to a town. There was no major problem with fly posting in the town. The placing of gas and beer barrels on pavements or on the street must be discouraged; these impede access for pedestrians, especially the disabled, and look untidy. Footpaths should not be cluttered with goods, stands, sandwich boards etc. The advertising bill board on the high stone wall on the Castlebar road should be removed. The old water tap on the footpath outside the Tourist Office should have its top replaced as this is a feature.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The majority of residential areas are well maintained. The effort by the residents on John's Row with the green area, trees and seating looks well. The housing estate on the Golf Course Road looked tidy and a number of the gardens have been planted with flowers. The Houses in general throughout the town and in housing estates are well presented and indeed some are to a very high standard. The addition of flower boxes or baskets on more of the Mall properties would brighten up the buildings and add to this lovely area by the river.

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

The bedding and planting on the Castlebar approach road looks well and enhances this approach to the town. The raised area on the corner at the entrance to the Hotel should be planted. The Leenane approach road requires its hedging and grass verges to be better maintained. The Maxol Garage looks well. The Louisburgh approach road looks fine leading into the Quay area and Town. The entrance to the former Quay school requires attention. The area around Roman Island should not be neglected as this area is a natural amenity for the town. The

Quay road improvements are a fine addition to this area and the use of hard landscaping and tree planting looks well. The Ballinrobe approach road with the new improvements to the footpaths, walls and tree planting lifts this stretch of road. However more is required from the companies doing business on this road into town to improve their properties and road frontages, the railway embankment on the left leading towards the railway station should be planted or seeded. The Newport approach road looks well. The on-going street improvements are helping the overall appearance of the town but it is important that the proposals in your plan are fully implemented.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Westport is progressing well in the Competition, but this year the Town has lost marks in the litter control category. This should not happen. Tidy Towns Committees need to keep focused on what has been achieved in their Town and ensure no regression occurs, at the same time moving forward and carrying out further improvements. It is not easy and involves hard work and commitment. The town of Westport has the potential to do very well in this competition but it will take time. Good luck with your endeavours.

### **SECOND ADJUDICATION (6/8/97)**

Westport was very busy, thronged with visitors during second adjudication. It was a sunny day which did justice to the colourful buildings and planting. Litter regrettably was again a serious problem. Despite ongoing improvements (particularly commendable being the development of standard signage for B&B premises, etc.) advertising stickers on shop fronts and sandwich boards created unwelcome clutter. Any billboards within the town centre must be removed. Grassed areas were generally well mown but all too often were covered in litter. The development at the quay to date is very impressive, demonstrating well how old buildings can be given a new lease of life. It was also pleasing to see linking devices being put in place between the quay and the town centre.