

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GOWNA**
County : **CAVAN**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	39
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	27	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	226	219

Gowna, County Cavan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The lakeland village of Lough Gowna was most welcoming on adjudication day. Tidy streets, colourful floral displays and freshly painted buildings all contributing to a clean and tidy environment. The high level of presentation and maintenance throughout the village is most consistent and reflects commitment and enthusiasm on the part of the community. We still await your village enhancement plan and hopefully this will be available in support of next years work programme.

Attention to detail under this heading is now a priority as you push for national honours. It was a pleasure to adjudicate Lough Gowna and this adjudicator will be watching your future progress with great interest.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The general standard of the built environment continues to improve. Many buildings have been recently painted and on adjudication day other buildings were being attended to. Lough Gowna Post Office (Sloane's) was much admired - neatly presented with hanging baskets, window boxes and colourful gardens to the side and rear. All Churches looked well with attractive lawns/ planting and in particular the Church of Ireland on the Longford Road which has a magnificent lakeside setting. The Aeroboard Factory has improved this year and the area of the handball alley has benefited greatly from care. Pikers Lodge, Fitzpatrick's Tavern and Hungry Hunter all had generous displays of floral arrangements. The parking area on the Longford Road was a little untidy and the storage of beer barrels should be screened at all times. The Old St. Patrick's National School should be renovated and used as a community facility. The new shop front of Whites also deserves special mention and in general all commercial premises were presented to a very high standard. A good performance under this heading has been rewarded with an increase in marks.

LANDSCAPING

Your use of colourful floral displays enhances greatly the overall presentation of open spaces and the village in general. Hanging baskets, window boxes, flower tubs all add greatly to the streetscape. Congratulations to the individual property owners who are responsible for the preparation and maintenance of these displays. Your choice of trees, shrubs and flowers is commended. Do promote the high amenity value of the lake by developing walks, picnic areas etc. Progress under this heading is much admired by this adjudicator - well done to all for an

obvious co-ordinated approach.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The very rural and lakeland setting of Gowna provides the Tidy Towns Committee with many opportunities to progress under this heading. For next year give a priority to identifying wildlife habitats and signpost some as part of an extensive nature trail which will be of particular interest to visitors and a new tourism attraction for the village. This should be an education opportunity for the local school - working closely with ENFO and North West Regional Tourism Authority.

LITTER CONTROL

Your litter awareness programme is most effective resulting in a litter free Gowna on adjudication day. The adjudicator was most impressed with the display of posters in the school windows - all with an environmental theme.

TIDINESS

The overall impression of Gowna was of a neat and well maintained appearance. Well presented green areas and open spaces, freshly painted buildings, colourful floral displays, nicely planted areas, trimmed hedging and newly whitewashed Walls all making a significant contribution. Do monitor the presentation of litter bins and weed growth at boundary walls on a regular basis and make sure that signposting is clean in appearance at all times.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The presentation of residential properties in the centre of the village was most impressive and the many people out painting on adjudication day says a lot for their commitment to the Tidy Towns effort. Private houses on the outskirts of Gowna also looked well and many with nicely manicured lawns and colourful flower beds. The thatched cottage on the Longford Road was freshly painted and an attractive feature of this approach. As mentioned in last years report "the residents of Gowna show an obvious pride in their properties". Congratulations to all.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Access roads to the village have improved in presentation this year - neatly trimmed verges, and low cut hedging revealing magnificent panoramic views of the lakes and rolling countryside. The use of natural stone for a boundary wall on the Granard Road was much admired and the young trees recently planted will add greatly to the areas when they mature. Improve the presentation of directional

signposting where necessary and improve the forecourt area of the factory on the Cavan Road. The single story building on the Granard Road with galvanised roofing was looking very attractive this year with foliage and freshly whitewashed walls making it most attractive.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You are making excellent progress and the relationship between the Tidy Towns Committee, Community Groups and Statutory Bodies is a key factor in your achievements to-date. As already mentioned attention to detail is now of priority to sustain your progress. Another good performance this year has garnered you an increase in marks.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (14/08/98)

Gowna looked exceptionally well on our second visit also in August. Buildings are being beautifully maintained and many have been freshly painted and whitewashed. The community obviously takes a great pride in their environment. Some litter bins had also been nicely painted. The landscaped green area in the village centre looked well with its flower displays in the boat and also, of course, the Montebretia and Nasturtiums to the back wall of this green area which softened its otherwise grey appearance. The chain-link fencing out the Granard Road needs some repair. Also keep up the efforts to have dated plastic neon signs replaced with more modern attractive signage. Litter control is excellent and the village and its immediate hinterland has a general air of tidiness and a well cared for appearance, well done. Hopefully service poles will be removed and replaced with attractive lampstandards and roads and footpaths resurfaced over the next few years. Good luck for the future.