

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **AHASCRAUGH**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-98

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1998 | Mark Awarded 1997 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 27 | 26 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 23 | 23 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 22 | 20 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 11 | 11 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 22 | 22 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 11 | 11 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 17 | 17 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 22 | 20 |
| General Impression | 10 | 6 | 6 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 161 | 156 |

Ahascragh, County Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

This adjudicator had only passed through Ahascragh on a number of occasions and was very glad of the opportunity to observe the village in detail - the history as manifest through the corn-mill and the landlord's estate and the feeling of its being a planned village all make very good sense in the light of your response to the questionnaire. The map is most helpful - next year you might differentiate between sites where work has been completed and those where further work is proposed. While there is still much to be done, the work already achieved is impressive.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The R.C. Church, and the various community and educational buildings on the south side of the village, are well maintained. The Church of Ireland church - not marked on the map, and almost concealed by trees - is a delightful building. It is hoped that the splendid cut-stone classical lodge on the Avenue is to be preserved. Unfortunately the most striking building is the corn mill: the difficulties are appreciated, but nonetheless it is the most dominant structure and casts its influence visually over the village centre. (If even the concrete portion could be demolished, exposing the original stone, it would be a big step.) A fine Georgian mansion nearby, painted a strong colour, is eye-catching in a more positive way. Good to see infill work in progress at the end of a terrace on the Caltra road. Business premises are mainly well presented; the charming Post Office was photographed and an effort will be made to enter it for the traditional shop-front award since the An Post award has been discontinued.

LANDSCAPING

The Grotto, the bedding at the Failte's sign, the lawn and planting near the shops, the area round the Grotto, and incidental planting throughout the village, show much good planning and good taste. Your tree-planting programme is especially commended - in a very few years these young trees will make an enormous impact.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The comments of last year's adjudicator remain appropriate. The mature timber bordering the Avenue is wonderful. You might invite schoolchildren to undertake a project identifying all the different species, and also listing the animals and birds seen in the neighbourhood.

LITTER CONTROL

There was some litter in the village centre, but your campaign

seems to be quite effective.

TIDINESS

The derelict sites certainly do have a deleterious effect. Otherwise, the village looked neat and well cared for.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the street houses are very nicely presented, though some of the houses in the estate almost opposite the corn-mill could do with repainting.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

You are doing well in this category - approach roads, surfaces, street lighting and particularly your excellent stone wall-building. The first impression created by these walls (as well as the tree planting already mentioned) is very positive indeed.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A place of unusual historical and environmental interest where an enterprising Community Council is taking very positive steps to improve the quality of life.