

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **LEENANE**  
County : **GALWAY**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	27
The Built Environment	40	24	23
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	21	21
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>165</b>

## **Leenane, County Galway**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The updated 1997 Development Plan was received, with thanks. Your map is also clear and useful. Next year, please fill in the blank spaces on the questionnaire so that an entirely fair assessment can be made: where you state 'See Plan' it is not always clear from the Plan what projects have been completed or which are still in progress, and observation of the sites does not answer this adequately in every case either. The proposal for a tide-sustained Marina is first class. The Development Association's persistence in pursuing its objectives is greatly admired.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The Church is very nicely maintained; so is the school, but whitewashing of the boundary wall had not been completed. The Community Hall and Health Centre are well kept. As last year, business premises are well kept, though there is a tendency to overdo the signage. The building which is in really prime condition is the Cultural Centre (its signage is eye-catching yet uncluttered). The condition of the Hotel is still poor, which is unfortunate as it is the dominant building in Leenane; it is hoped that it will be re-established before long. Bay View and Sancta Maria Guest Houses are among the most attractively presented.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Killary is arguably the most spectacularly scenic spot in Ireland; great efforts are being made to complement this within the village area. The 'Failte' sign on the hillside does not help. The garden between the Cultural Centre and the river looked a bit neglected. Incidental planting throughout the village is attractive.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The comments of last year's adjudicator remain relevant. You might suggest a project for schoolgoers in identifying the local flora and fauna - their work could result in an illustrated information board.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

There was some disposable litter in the village centre on adjudication day. The bin in the large car park was overflowing - this is the kind of thing which needs to be watched in a busy tourist area.

### **TIDINESS**

The boundary of the same car park was weedy on adjudication

day. The neighbourhood of the Hotel is unkempt - this may be partly due to renovation work. Householders or businesspersons should undertake to keep their immediate area weed and litter free - this would take very little time and effort if attended to regularly. The proliferation of public and private signage at the meeting of the three main roads does contribute an untidy air - although many of the individual signs are attractive.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The whole of Leenane is residential, so some of the comments made above are relevant. Individual homes are well kept, and pleasant private gardens predominate.

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

Road surfaces are excellent, and the approach roads from Letterfrack and Westport give a very pleasing introduction to the village. Leenane name-signs add to this positive feeling of expectation. A corrugated iron structure above the harbour, rusty iron gates next to Killary Crafts, and a rather undefined car park opposite The Field need attention. Whitewashing of the backs of buildings at Killary Crafts would make an enormous difference to the village as viewed from, for example, the road from Westport. The building of fine stone walls was in progress at the time of adjudication, and these will also add tremendously to the visual amenity.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The focal point of unsurpassably beautiful surroundings, where strenuous efforts are being made to maintain and improve the village vicinity.