

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MENLOUGH**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-98

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1998 | Mark Awarded 1997 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 20 | 20 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 21 | 20 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 17 | 14 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 10 | 10 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 25 | 25 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 9 | 8 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 15 | 14 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 16 | 15 |
| General Impression | 10 | 4 | 4 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 137 | 130 |

Menlough, County Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Yours is one of the very few committees which has not provided a 3- or 5-year Development Plan. Committees in other villages have found such a plan to be very useful in identifying priorities, and in setting out a reasonable programme of work to be completed in each successive year. Thank you for your map - it is only partially helpful as it was printed several years ago and does not show, for example, the school. On next year's map you should mark sites where projects have been completed or are in progress - it is unlikely that we will miss anything, but it is in your interests to be certain.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church and grounds are well maintained, but the gates still need painting. The School frontage is tidy, with good planting. The Post Office is excellent, both the building and its surroundings - if there were still an award for post offices we would enter this one. Thompson's shop looked very well, with excellent signage; Glynn's is also quite smart. The Agristore needs upgrading - perhaps it is vacant? (You should mention such points on the questionnaire.) The Garda barracks seemed better cared for than last year.

LANDSCAPING

Planting and public seating at the Grotto was admired. Incidental planting throughout the village is good. Young trees are particularly in evidence (you should state in your answer to the questionnaire the extent of tree-planting over the past year - if only to gain extra marks) along the approach roads, and the grass verges are especially good going west from the village centre, though they did not seem to be quite so well tended the nearer they came to the 30 mph sign.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

From the answer to the questionnaire you do not seem to be greatly engaged by the subject. Apart from 'encouraging people to protect wild life', which is undoubtedly in the spirit of the category, you might initiate, for example, a school project where students would identify and catalogue the native flora and fauna, for publication.

LITTER CONTROL

There was some kerbside litter. A broken litter bin with litter surrounding it was noticed near the phone booth. Again, a school project would be valuable, as has been proved elsewhere.

TIDINESS

Neglected buildings have been mentioned before. It is better not to put out flower tubs if they aren't going to be planted, as at Agristore. The frontage of the GAA park was remarkable unkempt on adjudication day - technically this location is outside the village area and it is not brought into the marking, but it is mentioned here as it gives a poor (and erroneous) first impression of Menlough to those travelling on this road. Otherwise, it is a tidy village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Older street houses, as well as the pairs of houses opposite the Church, are well kept, and where there are gardens they are generally trim and colourful. There are several pleasant homes on the outskirts.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Surfaces are reasonably good in most areas, though not all. The Church car park is well surfaced and weed-free. Fine stone walls bounding the main road outside the village, and at a number of places inside the village, were admired. The gravelling in the Post Office area is excellent.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A village with many pleasant features which has real potential for major environmental improvement, and progress in this competition. The rather low-key response to future development, and the paucity of information given on the entry form, may give a wrong impression, but ultimately the adjudicators can only assess what they see.