

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **ORANMORE**  
County : **GALWAY**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	18
The Built Environment	40	22	21
Landscaping	40	24	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	19	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	6	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>150</b>

## **Oranmore, County Galway**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The people of Oranmore should be very pleased with the efforts of their Tidy Towns Group. While a number of improvements are manifest this year, there are interesting and imaginative plans for the future, and their fruition will be eagerly looked forward to. Next year, please be sure to mark all sites which should be inspected on your map - for example, the place where a park is being laid out was not shown, nor was Tobar na Coille - and three local residents did not know where it is! It is six years since this adjudicator was in Oranmore - as a visitor - and the improvements are phenomenal. This Group does itself a distinct disservice by failing to answer ten of the questions in Section B of the questionnaire.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The new church is splendidly looked after, and restoration of the old one looks promising. The Garda Station has been beautifully painted since last year, but the prominent gates of the convent did not seem to have been done. As before, most of the business premises are bright and clean - a pity there are mass-produced signs on some of them, and plastic bunting dis-improves the appearance of buildings. There is some very good signwriting on the well-painted shopfronts.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The many well-mown roadside lawns and shrubberies immediately attract the eye. There is a missed opportunity in the triangular space between Maree Road and the main road. Flowers in stone-surrounded beds looked enchanting on adjudication day. Recent tree-planting in salient places is also impressive.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

From observation, and from reading your development plan, it seems that this topic does not interest the committee as much as the others. It is probably fair to say that achievement remains at the same level as last year.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

There was very little litter in the village centre, except around the convent gates where it was very noticeable. There was an extraordinary amount of litter - plastic bags, cans, bottles - on Castle Road, and this was likely to result in a diminution of marks over last year; fortunately, later in the day, it was seen to have been removed.

## **TIDINESS**

The street car-parking referred to last year certainly detracts from the neatness of the village. Protruding signage is also a continuing factor, and, this year, plastic bunting. Proliferation of B&B signs could become a visual problem. [Not for marking, as it is outside the village area, but large industrial premises on the Tuam approach road are badly screened and give a poor first impression to the visitor.]

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Private homes are impressive in Oranmore, both on the main roads and in quiet estates and culs-de-sac. Estates to the north, west and south of the village are very good indeed. It was good to see that some new houses retain the old stone wall frontages.

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

As mentioned above, stone walls predominate, and their traditional excellence is a big plus; at the few places where they are not in such good repair they should be attended to. The approach from the Athenry roundabout is very good indeed, the approaches from Galway and Limerick are good, but, curiously, the approach by Maree Road is better beyond the 30 mph sign than on the village side of it. The road to the Castle is very poorly kept. A project which could be added to the list at a later date might be the removal of the wirescape in the village centre.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Pride in homes and business houses, and a very keen interest in attractive planting, are the two factors which strike the visitor most forcibly. The successful continuation of the projects already in progress will be eagerly observed. Congratulations on a fine showing.