

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **OUGHTERARD**  
County : **GALWAY**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	29
The Built Environment	40	20	19
Landscaping	40	20	19
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	20	19
Tidiness	20	11	12
Residential Areas	30	17	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	18
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>157</b>

## **Oughterard, County Galway**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The long-term planning commitment is impressive. Be careful not to take on too many projects at once. Next year, when submitting your entry form and backup documentation, please differentiate clearly between work completed in the past twelve months, projects which are ongoing, and projects which are for the future. Your map should show sites in the former two categories. Please make your written entries as concise as possible.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The Roman Catholic church is very well maintained. The Court House remains neglected. Sweeney's, the Corrib, the Connemara Gateway and the Lake Hotels are all well presented. Several individual shops and business premises are well kept. In making nominations for awards, the stacks, roof, gutters and chutes, gables and upper stories must be as well presented as the fascia, and there must be no mass-produced or plastic signage.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Oughterard's superb natural environment has been successfully drawn into the ambit of the urban area through the laying out of walks, parks and attractive incidental planting. Improvement of the walk by the Owenriff was almost completed by adjudication day, and should have blended with its surroundings by next year. Some landscape developments at sites mentioned in the submission did not seem to have progressed very far (see note under 'Overall Developmental Approach' above). The Famine Graveyard, nominated by the Committee for the national Heritage Award, could not be identified by local residents, and though the adjudicator found the site from the ordinance survey map, it did not seem to match the description. The waterside gardens were again beautifully tended. The gardens of the Corrib, Sweeney's and the Gateway Hotels enhance these properties tremendously. Young trees were doing well in the open area beyond the foot of Camp Street, and along roadsides.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The descriptive paragraphs in your submission show a keen awareness of the flora and fauna. The school project will be looked forward to in 1999.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

There was some kerbside litter in the central streets on adjudication day, but your anti-litter programme seems to be working well. This is a considerable achievement in a town which attracts so many visitors.

## **TIDINESS**

There was much weed in the open area beyond Camp Street, and at the Anglers' Club premises by the Owenriff Walk. The chief source of untidiness is the ubiquitous signs - this problem has been gathering momentum in recent years. Official directional signs, B&B signs (especially on the Galway road) advertising signs standing on sidewalks, and many plastic and mass-produced signs projecting from the frontages of buildings. The overall effect gives a superficial cheapness to the townscape which is quite at odds with the charm and dignity for which Oughterard is noted. A strenuous course of action is needed here.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Individual street houses, houses in estates, and suburban type houses on the outskirts, all seem to be looked after with pride. Aobhinn Ruibhe estate is typically neat. One house in Camp Street was completely drenched in flowers!

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

Surfaces are good to variable. The smartest approach road is the one from Hill of Doon where the stone walls are superb, but the approach from Clifden, as it descends to the town by the river, is exceptionally picturesque. The approach from Galway does not give the same feeling of arrival in a very special place. Verges are generally trim - two bye-roads where this was particularly noted are Pier Road and the road to the former Railway Station. Paving in the centre is good. The car parks at either end of the town are well kept, but on-street parking should be discouraged. The blue street name signs are useful and attractive.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

As Oughterard increases in prosperity and popularity the environmental problems will increase in parallel. The leadership of this energetic and far-sighted committee is keeping pace with developments, and the results of its continued activities are eagerly anticipated.