

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **TUAM**  
County : **GALWAY**  
Category : **E**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	18	19
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	24	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	22	23
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	13	13
General Impression	10	5	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>162</b>

## **Tuam, County Galway**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

We do not appear to have received your 5-Year Plan, and the information about your achievements over the past year as provided in the questionnaire is rather sparse. The map supplied is significantly out of date - it does not show any of the building estates completed in the last 50 years, nor does it show Abbey Trinity Road (N 17) the chief north-south thoroughfare. Next year please include a current map, and mark the sites which should be visited. It is unlikely that we have missed any, but one needs to be certain.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The two splendid Cathedrals are, as usual, superbly maintained. Renovation of the Protestant Bishop's Palace, in progress, looks promising. The fine facade of the Town Hall is marred by posters. The Credit Union is the best kept of the semi-official buildings, and the banks are also impressive. The shops and business premises mentioned last year are again well presented; Shop Street appropriately containing the best share; a real pity that the handsome premises next the Library here has become derelict - every effort should be made to retain this essential component of the terrace. There are still too many ill-kept frontages, plastic fascias and protruding mass-produced signs.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The Palace Grounds are once again the pleasantest open space in Tuam. The grounds of the institutions to the left and right of St Jarlath's Cathedral are also very well kept up. A small park and playground at Ballyaddy is a fine amenity. In the town centre, the grounds of the Mill Museum are delightful - it is a pity that one looks across the river at derelict buildings. Surprisingly, a small planted area at the significant junction of High Street and Abbey Trinity Road was untended at the date of adjudication. Incidental planting throughout the town is welcome. It was not possible to discern what trees had been planted during the past year, but tree-planting is a valuable contribution at any time.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The introduction of wildlife to the Nanny River, as described in the questionnaire, is also a very valuable contribution. Ducks were seen at Shop Street bridge. The suggestions made by last year's adjudicator should be considered, and perhaps have been. A useful project for schoolchildren would be the identification of native flora and fauna.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Considerable litter was seen in the central streets, but more particularly in the car parks off Bishop Street and Vicar Street. By contrast, the car park at St Jarlath's Cathedral was completely litter-free. There was kerbside litter in some of the housing estates near the railway station. There were even cans and plastic wrappers at the foot of the 1916 memorial.

## **TIDINESS**

Protruding and plastic signs have already been mentioned. Excessive street car parking, mentioned last year, also contributes to the appearance of clutter. Dereliction here and there, both in the town centre and on some approach roads, does not help. The worst example seen is on the north side of Bishop Street at the river bridge. The town is basically so handsome, it is a real pity to find these black spots.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The great majority of homes are very well looked after. Among the excellent areas noticed are Fairgreen Heights, Bellaire Avenue, Riverside Court, Ballyaddy Road - and many others not marked on the map. Not all houses in the neighbourhood of St Enda's Avenue are so well attended to, and this is undoubtedly due to social difficulties: one would like to see the local authority making a special effort here. There are some lovely gardens throughout the town environs.

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

The approach roads, especially the N 17, are reasonably good. Surfaces are good, with the exception of the Gilmartin Road area. Link roads in two places hopefully suggest that a complete by-pass is on the way. Paving and street furniture in the town centre is very good. The sign to St Mary's Cathedral needs repainting. The blue street signs are attractive as well as helpful.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

A lively and distinguished town, suffering from excess traffic and some urban decay. The work of this committee is undoubtedly contributing towards the numerous and impressive improvements.