

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ATHLEAGUE**
County : **ROSCOMMON**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	29
The Built Environment	40	22	21
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	21	20
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	170	165

Athleague, County Roscommon

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Athleague is welcome to the 1998 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed entry form and attached outline map. It is important that your work plan is reviewed each year and amended accordingly. As recommended in a previous report the completion of the stone wall programme for the village is important, ensuring all of your fine stone walls are exposed, revealed and refurbished, where necessary. We look forward to seeing all your proposals come to fruition in due course, it is vital that any completed projects are maintained and monitored while the other new projects are undertaken.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Angling Centre is coming along nicely well done to the Suck Valley Co-Op. Hopefully the surrounding areas, especially in front, will be tidied up and landscaped. The property and forecourt next door to Keane's Supermarket needs some attention, as does the vacant Athleague Stores. The derelict old School is a major disappointment and takes from the Village. The Statoil petrol station and forecourt looked well, as did Gilligans, Keane's, Bridge House and Town & Country properties, to mention a few. It is good to see the majority of other business houses are making an effort. The remainder should support their local community effort and add some colour to their properties, by way of planting or indeed painting.

LANDSCAPING

The flower and shrub displays in the village and opposite the Bridge House, Keane's and at Gilligans looked well. So also did the maintained flower and shrub displays along the side of the approach roads and at signage well done. It was noted that the area near the Mart still requires attention as does the narrow bedding along the wall on the Church road side leaving Athleague.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

A general survey of the wildlife to identify fauna and flora should be undertaken as Athleague's location makes it ideal for a thriving population of all types and forms of wildlife. The area adjoining the new Angling Centre running parallel to the river Suck looks neglected what a pity it is totally overgrown with tall grass, weeds and scattered litter. One picnic table was overturned and the general picnic area was totally overgrown. This area would end itself, if maintained, to having flora and fauna introduced and becoming a local natural habitat for all the community to enjoy.

LITTER CONTROL

There is still room for improvement, however the centre of the village appeared to be reasonably litter free on adjudication day. The approach roads into Athleague need attention as there was litter to be seen along the side of the roads.

TIDINESS

The area outside the Athleague Foodstore looks untidy, weed and grass growth at base of walls and kerbs needs attention. The storage of material at the rear and at the side of the Hall should be discouraged. Side and rear access to properties, and storage areas if not maintained, should be screened from view.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There were a number of well maintained properties with nice gardens and flower arrangements, well done. Roadside areas outside residential properties should be monitored, especially boundary walls. Presumably on completion the new houses on the Athlone approach road will have their grounds and boundary areas properly finished off. It is good to see new houses being built in small villages in rural Ireland.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

It was noted that a number of the stone walls on approach roads had tall grass and weeds growing in front of them. Nearer the village some of the walls bases and edges of footpaths had weeds growing. The storage of any building material on the side of the road should be discouraged. Where grass verges are cut the old grass should be removed and the base of trees should also be attended to. It was also noted that the hedges and grass verges had been recently cut especially on the Galway, Roscommon, Donamon approach roads, however the minor approach roads should not be forgotten.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Athleague is a village with a lot of potential, which has yet to be maximised. Improvements will come. However, the wider community must support those who are making an effort. An objective approach must be taken and those not fully committed should be encouraged to do that bit extra it does make the difference. Good luck for the future and we look forward to our next visit.