

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **LETTERFRACK**  
County : **GALWAY**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 13-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	32
The Built Environment	40	23	24
Landscaping	40	29	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	21
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>200</b>

## **Letterfrack, County Galway**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The committee is to be commended for its perseverance and spirit during a time when the sheer size of construction work impacts on 'normal' community life. In these circumstances, it is rewarding to see progress, in spite of tight resources, in road widening, and the amenity development at the corner of the Connemara West Centre.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There is no particular style to village presentation . The absence of house terrace and the fact that the main street is virtually one sided gives it a disjointed look. We would suggest that better defined carpark frontages would help pull the village together. The thatched roofed restaurant, An Pangur Ban, is eye catching with cut stone walls and floral display. On inspection day the Garda Station was being repainted. The terrace of cottages at the back of the Furniture College are delightful although one is in need of painting. It is hoped that the completion of the building programme at the end of the avenue will be followed by the restoration of this attractive roadway. The church looked well on inspection day but its grass areas are in need of attention. The Monastery Hostel has a nice period architectural quality.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The approach roads to the village are generally attractive with good displays of natural hedgerows. The colourful flower beds are a welcome introduction to the village. The garden attached to Veldons is very attractive with its bog oak sculpture feature. There is an abundance of trees which gives the village an atmosphere of peace and maturity. The trimmed lawns at the front of the Furniture College were noted as was the line of chestnut trees at its road frontage. The terraced amenity at the corner with its seats and tables looked very well indeed.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The Connemara National Park is an outstanding facility which provides walks and interpretative services to the highest standards. The footpath access to the Park via the Clifden Road is not only tremendously convenient, but the stream which flows by its wall displays an extraordinary array of flora. Good to see the growth in the heron population.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control is good and you have clearly operated a successful programme in this area. The litter bin at Veldons and the recycling facility at the nearby car park was noted. Litter bin at Mollys was full to overflowing.

### **TIDINESS**

There is an unsightly fast food mobile vending trailer parked at Mollys. Empty beer kegs were in evidence as were gas cylinders. There is some kerb weed and the advance sign post for Renvyle on the Clifden side is almost entirely blocked by hedge growth. The avenue of cottages behind the Furniture College is also weeded. The ongoing construction work causes dust and site untidiness.

Your efforts in your clean sweep drive are commended.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The residential areas co-relate to the built environment and the comments under that heading apply. There are a number of attractive private gardens and this element of residential area should continue to be encouraged.

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

Road surfaces are generally bad, and in part, at the Monastery Hostel to the National Park, of very poor quality. Movement of machinery related to the Connemara West and other developments is most likely responsible for a lot of surface damage but as indicated under developmental approach and until this work is complete the problem will continue. The stone wall building at the amenity looks very well.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

There is such a profusion of natural flora and fauna that much could be done to inform and interpret. The triangular area proposed for a garden could be an outstanding opportunity in this regard. Letterfrack has much to offer but must first accommodate its building and redevelopment programme before many of these qualities can be properly exploited.