

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LOUGHREA**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	27	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	22	23
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	198	199

Loughrea, County Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The overall developmental approach adopted by the Loughrea Environmental Group is one of the most progressive seen by this adjudicator. There is little doubt that with this foundation and sense of direction the benefits which will accrue to Loughrea will show dividends as elements of the plan fall into place.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Loughrea has a number of impressive buildings. However, the Main Street has little in architectural significance which is a bit disappointing as most people passing through the town miss some very interesting structures in the Barrack Street and Abbey Lane areas. It is interesting to note your intention to develop a colour scheme for Main Street through the Loughrea Town Development Plan. This would be a major step forward as it would create the ambience for an entertaining and informative experience. On the inspection day, St. Brendan's Church looked extremely well with its well maintained and mature gardens. The Courthouse with its attractive flower boxes is an imposing structure and is well complimented by the new walls around the Fair Green. The Cinema is in need of maintenance and window painting but certainly has potential to present at a far higher level. The Carmelite Abbey is a surprise to this adjudicator and a very welcome one at that. Again, offers a major opportunity for improved presentation and interpretation. The Colour scheme project in Barrack Street looked very attractive with 4 of the houses looking exceptionally well. There seemed to be some problems with the last two but it served as an example of what can be done. The Garda Station looks well although the garden in front could be better maintained. The Credit Union Offices at Dunkellin Street are a major improvement.

LANDSCAPING

From the main Galway Road the presentation of verges tidies up at the speed limit signs. The flower bed planter at the junction of the West Bridge is attractive, which cannot be said unfortunately about the cone shaped 'pot' under the advance town sign. The mature trees along Barrack Street are excellent, and there are some fine examples of good landscaping at the Fair Green, the Grove, the amenity at Long Point and Corry's Fields. The green at Corscorigg Crescent was disappointing. Tree plantations along Dublin Road are welcome but collars of flowers at the base of trees is not encouraged. Surprisingly, there was weed growing at the bottom of a tree outside the colour scheme terrace of houses. Gardens of the Western Health Board are excellent. There is an attractive floral display in the car park off main street. The public lighting here is very attractive and, if extended to the Main Street, could make considerable impact.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Wildlife and natural amenities in Loughrea are best represented by the

lakeside amenities and walks development at Corry's Field. This delightful access to the lakeside with its wheelchair friendly paths provides facilities to enjoy the natural lakeside flora and fauna. The completion of the flower bed at the entrance is in nice contrast to the walk's display of natural flora. Long Point is also particularly attractive and offers car access, walks, and swimming.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter appeared to be well under control on adjudication day. There was a litter difficulty along the Walks and in particular some wall graffiti and beer cans in the river disappointed what otherwise is a peaceful linear park of real potential. Litter bin was overflowing at the car park at Long Point. Good to see the recycling facilities opposite the Garda Station.

TIDINESS

There is a dereliction problem, particularly along the Dunkellin, Main, and Bride Street Stretch. There is also cluttered signage, wirescape, and some instances of kerb weed. There is an amount of signage above shop fascia levels which contributes to untidiness.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Loughrea's residential areas are formed through a combination of commercial, residential and estates. The housing along the Woodford Road with their mature gardens are very attractive. While the gardens and green in the Corscorig Estate are well kept, the green's centrepiece display is quite well weeded. The Old Galway Road area looks quite well with trimmed verges and trees. St. Laurences Estate has nice greens at its entry but a fine line of trees is marred by weed growth at their bases. Greenery at Faheys Gardens looks reasonable if a little 'tired'. Garrybreda Park estate looks very well.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The main road from the Dublin side is badly affected by the stark walls of the football ground on the right, and general untidiness on the left just before the speed limit sign. Closer to the town tree plantations to left and the amenity park to right create a good impression. The road from the Woodford side is nicely walled and the town sign has an attractive flower bed. From the Gort side there is a surprising amount of weed along the walls of Corry's Fields.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

General impression is of a town which has taken the issue of its environmental qualities and prospects very seriously indeed. The obvious enthusiasm of the Environmental Group and its ability to identify its own priorities is paving the way towards a far more pleasant and enjoyable Loughrea.