

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KNOCKANURE**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	--
The Built Environment	40	24	--
Landscaping	40	25	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	--
Litter Control	40	23	--
Tidiness	20	13	--
Residential Areas	30	20	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	178	--

Knochanure, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Cuirtear fáilte chuig Cnoc an Lúir chuig Comórtas Náisiunta na mBaile Slachtmhara 1999. Tá moladh agus creidiúnt ag dul chuig Cumann Forbartha Chnoc an Lúir as ucht páirt a ghlacadh sa chomórtas seo. The completed entry form and sketch map proved helpful on adjudication day. You are now part of a national movement of immense environmental significance and we wish you every success in the competition. You have taken the first step towards improving your village by participating in the competition. You need to formulate a three to five year development plan that will chart the way forward. This plan should ideally be a consensus plan agreed by the community. You should contact the County Council and Shannon Development re. same and perhaps make contact with other centres in the county.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

This was the first visit by the adjudicator to Knockanure, although one was well aware of the name in song and in story. It must be said that you need improved signposting from the surrounding roads. You also need two good Fáilte signs at the approach roads. Flynn's Bar and the house opposite give the village a standard for others to pursue. The Church is unique in such setting, but really needs some colour support. This could be done by developing the adjacent car park to cater for flowering shrubs. The flat roof is continued to the School, which is well presented. The Old School, which is now in a serious derelict condition still retains its attractive traditional features. If this building is still in parish/community ownership you might consider it for a new millennium project with some focus of community usage. If it is in private ownership it might still find a worthwhile usage. The stone tablet with datings of 1874 is a link with the "Knockenewer" of the past and should be preserved.

LANDSCAPING

There is welcome evidence of community activity in this section and the developed flower beds in the village are commendable. The Grotto has an attractive display of flowers. You should extend this type of development and include tree planting on both principal approach roads. It is important that your development plan should feature landscaping and the importance of planting the correct type of trees in the proper locations cannot be over emphasised.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

When planting new shrubs or trees give consideration to future wildlife and how you can assist in the promotion of wildlife. You might consider nominating a special area for wildflower meadow. This would be most attractive if you plant the correct seeds.

LITTER CONTROL

The village was almost totally free of litter and does not seem to have a problem in this regard.

TIDINESS

You have some pockets of open spaces that are overgrown and neglected. These present an image of untidiness. You need to give more attention to the approach roads and keep the margins well trimmed. Some corrugated roofs need painting and these should be tackled for next year. The telephone kiosk needs a new door, so you should contact Telecom Eireann. The Cemetery near the Schools is excellently presented, with an attractive pair of period metal gates.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of housing is good throughout and some excel. The house beside the school has a most magnificent landscaped garden providing an attractive introduction to the village from this approach. The hedge cutting revealing the name Goulding is most novel and attractive. The flower garden opposite the pillar box is eye catching - well done to all concerned.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The compactness of the village is to your advantage and offers potential to become a high scorer in the competition within a short period. Pay attention to boundary walls and encourage builders to finish well and remove unwanted material from building sites. You need to maintain the traditional features and rural ethos of the village. Try and keep your developments in keeping with the attractive environs of Knockanure. Your development plan should reflect this and don't be too anxious to copycat other developments of larger settlements.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village is in a most scenic area of North Kerry, with commanding views of the surrounding countryside. The adjudicator also visited Knockanure Cemetery which offers a great historic link with local names and family connections extending to America. The views from here are supreme

and the rather crude foot stile adjacent to the entry gate is a good example of the vernacular architecture of the last century. The cluster of trees in the adjoining field fits in snugly with the ambience of the cemetery on this hilltop. The visit to historic Knockanure was a rewarding one and we look forward to the village's continued participation in the competition. Tá tús maith déanta agaibh - lean leis anois.