

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KNOCKLONG**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	31
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	6	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>206</b>

## **Knocklong, County Limerick**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

There was an excellent outline of your activity in the entry form, together with a useful map. Your ability to harness much support from the community and various agencies is to your credit. You have a great mix of old and new and your challenge to merge both, in an acceptable way, is formidable. However, you have in your submission identified problems - many it must be acknowledged outside the scope of a Tidy Towns committee.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There seems to be two separate entities to Knocklong divided by the railway bridge. This presents you with both opportunities and challenges. The entity problem is compounded by the location of the church and school some distance away from the village. The square has a plethora of interesting buildings and the presence of so many old stone buildings with railway character, project an image of former rail activity beyond the norm. The garage is in a significant location and is well presented. The whole area of the railway station is now seriously problematic. It lacks any acceptable degree of discipline and offers much dereliction. It has to be said that the yard at the back of the former hotel is a serious let down. We look forward with expectation to the refurbishment programme planned by Iarnród Éireann. The mural, once attractive, now needs replacement.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Your strong point here relates to approach roads. You have worked hard on this section in recent years and many of previous year's planting is now maturing and enhancing the village. The comments made above about Bat Metalwork last year apply again this year. The foodstore would benefit from painting and improved forecourt surface. The house opposite the mural is particularly attractive. The road from the church to the village is well presented, with attractive well trimmed hedges. However, the road surface along here and speed limit signs needs attention.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

While your existing tree and shrub planting will contribute to wildlife you should consider selecting an open space for development of a wildflower meadow. With proper seed planting such a spectacle could be very colourful.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

You have scored well here and litter was not to any great degree in evidence. Litter bins seem adequate in numbers and were not overflowing on adjudication day. Litter control in the core village area is essential for good progress in the competition.

## **TIDINESS**

The untidiness in evidence through Knocklong relates to unattended open spaces and a good deal of dereliction. Over a phased period you should try and improve these poorly presented areas. Some of them have potential for attractive small flower gardens - but this should only be done if there is energy for good maintenance. By way of a millennium project you should consider a flower blitz on the bridge - this would help join the two entities previously referred to. The treatment of bridges by the Ennis Tidy Towns Committee might also be applied with great effect in Knocklong. It would be worthwhile for some committee members to make a visit to Ennis for ideas.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Well done to all the many individuals who keep their houses and gardens in such an attractive state. The former R.I.C. Cottages at Curraheen have taken on a new full time residential role and as a unit look well. However, cottage no. 5 needs improvement. Builders of new houses should be encouraged to landscape well before leaving the site. The terraced stone houses on the Tipperary Road are very well presented. There is little if any identity on the various housing schemes. You should embark on a bilingual signage programme that would identify the various areas.

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

Some boundary walls need painting and in many cases the area between boundary walls and the roadside needs surfacing. Back areas visible from the roadside need to ensure good presentation, as this section is now a core part of the adjudication process.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The Fás Scheme was observed during adjudication and the village looked well, with obvious signs of good effort. Try and get as many of the community as possible involved and don't rely on the Fás Scheme alone. With regard to the major problems mentioned, many of these are outside your control, but even by bringing this report to the attention of those in ownership you may persuade them to improve. You have worked hard in previous years and you have potential for much higher marks - good luck in your

endeavours.