

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **AUGHNACLIFFE**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	18
The Built Environment	40	17	16
Landscaping	40	17	16
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	12	12
Tidiness	20	8	8
Residential Areas	30	13	12
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	15	15
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	122	117

Aughnaclyffe, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your application, map and work programme which is to be commended. Aughnaclyffe has improved well in the past few years and your realisation as to the value of some aspects such as the dolmen and other historic elements is important.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The presentation of buildings is variable and in many cases attention to detail is required. The Community Centre looks well with its faillte sign. On the Ballinalee road, a yellow shop is freshly painted. The church itself is well presented though on the exterior, both railings and the outside wall need repainting. The school also needs repainting of its railings. The dolmen is important and it is good to see work is being carried out here. The rusty gate at its entrance, no signage as to access and litter at the entrance will all undoubtedly be addressed in the proposed works. Houricans is a nice traditional pub and the judges will be delighted to see the area beside it completed. The Post Office is well painted and the adjacent farm reasonable though the fine weather has helped. St. Thomas Church of Ireland looks very well and if the gravel is not for carpark use, should be removed.

LANDSCAPING

There are numerous containers around the town and they come in many different colours – grey wood, blue and white and green and white. The judges would advise that one colour is used preferably dark or muted so as to focus on the colour of the plants and flowers rather than the container itself. Cordylines are not really suitable trees for a rural village such as Aughnaclyffe and other plants such wild roses, fuchsia etc. would be more suitable.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The area down by the lake was very pleasant. There was a small amount of litter. Since people use the lake for fishing and relaxing, it may be advisable to include a litterbin here. The area should be assessed and ways of enhancing and encouraging wildlife should be considered i.e. the use of wildflowers, awareness of aquatic, bogland and woodland habitats. There is a wonderful variety of wildflowers in the ditches on the Granard road and through the village i.e. ferns, foxgloves, snowberry and there are the types of flowers that should be encouraged.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control still needs a more stringent approach with pieces seen at the lake, in the vicinity of Houricans and near the gateway to the Dolmen. Throughout the village it was minimal. Site litterbins in strategic locations where people congregate and educate through the school and church.

TIDINESS

The village is reasonably tidy. There is some long grass on the approach roads. Signs outside and within the village are grubby and the lack of uniformity in the presentation of the planters does tend to detract from the appearance of the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Aughnacliffe has some fine houses, notably in the centre of the village. The house opposite Reynolds and the house up on the Longford road were well presented and had some fine landscaping. Well done to those who have made the effort.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

None of the approach roads were particularly well presented. It would be advised that regular marginal trimming be carried out (i.e. 2 feet) on a regular basis during the growing season. Signs also tended to be grubby and needed attention e.g. the Cavan sign near the lake, the village sign of Aughnacliffe

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village is progressing though a more planned and co-ordinated approach is required. Your plan is to be commended and contains a number of viable pointers, the results of which the adjudicators hope to see over the coming years.