

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **AUGHAGOWER**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-99

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1999 | Mark Awarded 1998 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 33 | 32 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 30 | 29 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 28 | 27 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 21 | 20 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 32 | 32 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 16 | 15 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 21 | 21 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 30 | 28 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 219 | 211 |

Aughagower, County Mayo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Aughagower is welcome to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed application form and map. The village is steeped in history and has a strong spiritual tradition as is evidenced by the ruins of the abbey and round tower, the ancient graveyards and other religious sites. The first glimpse of the village from both the Westport and the Ballinrobe roads gives the traveller a sense of being about to step back in history to another time and place. The overall presentation of the village does not undermine one's first impression. The freshly painted buildings at the entrance from the Westport road make a very strong statement for what to expect from the village in general. Care should be taken not to allow Aughagower lose its rural character and its ambience of tranquillity with pressure for development.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The church looks really well, and of course, as stated above the ruins of the historic abbey and round tower are a very strong visual element of the village. Canon's pub is presented to a high standard. Muldoons Bar could be repainted to freshen its appearance. Weed growth was noted in the gutter of the Post Office and also in the handball and racketball court building. This should be removed before it becomes a serious problem. The handball and racketball court building should be repainted / whitewashed to freshen it. The Marian Shrine looks well.

LANDSCAPING

Tree planting around the village and its environs has been noted and is commendable. Newly planted trees at the small stream are maturing well, flower displays look well also. Do favour permanent shrubs for seasonal interest rather than flowerbeds. The carpark is also nicely landscaped.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The development of the picnic site along the banks of the small stream is a beautiful feature, simply, yet elegantly, presented. Do let us know what species are nesting in the tower and what steps you take to protect these. The proposed development of nature trails in the near future is looked forward to. Don't forget to keep us informed of your progress.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was very good on the day of adjudication. Your

daily clean-ups and emptying of litter bins is bearing fruit, well done. A small amount of litter was noted in the stream (plastic bag and a beer can) together with a small amount on the Leenane road (a plastic bag). Some scraps were also noted in the carpark.

TIDINESS

The village had an overall appearance of tidiness during adjudication. Weed growth had been sprayed. However, not all of this had been removed which tends to suggest a little untidiness, particularly in the area around the newer graveyard. Similarly grass cuttings should always be removed as these can look quite unsightly when left to discolour.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential properties are presented to a very high standard and are sympathetic to the overall ambience of the village. Carneys cottage could be whitewashed.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

As you are aware, the road up to the graveyard needs to be resurfaced. No doubt this will happen in due course. The service pole at St. Patrick's Well is particularly unsightly with its service cables radiating in several directions and at least one of these is droopy. One of the Westport signs (the one at the small stream) needs to be straightened a little.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Aughagower with its rural setting, historic character and ambience of peace and tranquillity is a joy to experience. Being located so close to a major town (four miles from Westport) may bring developmental pressures. Ensure that all future developments are sensitive to your lovely village.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (05/08/99)

The very quaint and charming village of Aughagower looked well on second adjudication day. On the Westport approach to the village the grass verges had been cut but the dead grass had yet to be removed. The attractive stone beds planted with hydrangeas were greatly admired. However, some litter was evident – bottles and cans etc. by the drive slowly through the village's sign. O'Cathaíns Pub in its prominent position looked very fresh and Muldoon's had been freshly painted but its window sills still appeared to be quite flaky. St. Patrick's vat or tub was simply presented with montbretia and its newly planted ash tree. The Famine memorial and well also looked most attractive. The boundary wall of the new graveyard appeared to be quite grubby and stained and the gates were quite rusty. However, the planted tubs outside were admired. Indeed timber tubs throughout

filled with nasturtiums created a good impression and the attractive timber litter bins were admired as was the attractive grotto for its simple presentation.