

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BEAL AN MHUIRHEAD**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 27-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	18	20
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	183	180

Beal na Mhuirthead, County Mayo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Beal na Mhuirthead is welcome to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition. Your lovely town which is situated on Blacksod bay and boasts many fine features such as a canal, a town square, a shore line, a quay and a pier is a pleasure to visit. The presentation of your canal banks is particularly appealing. We note your liaison with statutory bodies, well done.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The gentle colour scheme of marine colours for buildings leading to Carter Square was a pleasurable visual experience. The redevelopment of a site just off Carter Square was noted, we look forward to its completion. The rear façades of some buildings (especially corrugated ones) on the main street which are highly visible from the entrance to the quay area should be refurbished or perhaps clothed in a climbing plant as they look quite bad. The old church is a handsome building, are there plans for its redevelopment? A community use would be appropriate. Try to keep its grounds neatly trimmed in the interim.

LANDSCAPING

The stone shrub beds along the Shore Road look well. Not all of the plants have reinstated themselves, these must suffer greatly from salt and wind spray. You may need some expert advice in this area. A list of salt and wind resistant plants is available upon request through the Tidy Towns Unit of the Department of the Environment. At the time of adjudication the planted area at the base of the wall on the Shore Road was quite immature, this may perhaps reinstate itself this summer. The landscaped area across from the National School looks well.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The field of buttercups between the road and the seafront on the main approach road / entrance into the village was a pleasure to behold under the grey, wet weather conditions during adjudication. Well done on the presentation of the shore line, we note the co-operation of the Swimming Club and Lions club in this respect, well done. The picnic area at the end of the Shore Road is appropriate. Is there an amenity walk from here along the coast? If so, then perhaps some signposting might be appropriate. This need not be very visually obtrusive, it can be discrete. See both Cospóir and Slí na Sláinte for developing walks. An Trú Beag is obviously an important wetland area, will it be protected from development pressures?

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was not good throughout the town during adjudication, it was weak across the road from St. Brendans College and on either side of the gates. It was particularly bad along America Street. The church and its grounds look well. Some litter was noted along the foreshore area near the Quay which could have been washed up quite recently. It was not a very serious problem here but one that should be watched.

TIDINESS

Weed growth was a feature along the stretch of kerb on the footpath across from the National School. It is a pity about the old garage and its car wrecks beside Brogans. This makes for a poor introduction to the town from the Ballyglass road. The Quay side area was a little bit untidy in some sections, however it wasn't a major problem and the recycling point was being maintained in quite a tidy manner. Try and keep this area free of weed growth.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The single storey dwellings at the entrance from the Ballina/Toorgloss road with their soft neutral colours complemented the soft pastel shades of the terraced residential properties closer to Carter Square. The recently completed residential development on Shore Road looks quite magnificent, we note an adjacent site, it appears to be in the initial stages of development. If this is to be a residential development and is finished to the same standard as the new one, it can only enhance the entire shoreline area significantly. Residential properties on the Ballina road with the gentle fall of their gardens to road level were all beautifully maintained.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The stone wall across from the slip-way needs to be reinstated. Street furniture looked well throughout, particularly the new seating and bollards in the area around the National School by the canal. The footbridge over the canal is a very attractive feature. The namestone and its stone surrounds at the entrance from the Ballyglass road looks well. The large carparking area could be resurfaced and the old boat removed together with the mound of gravel which is now sprouting weeds. The access path from the main street to the quay area should be properly surfaced and developed for both pedestrians and wheelchairs.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Belmullet is a very attractive town with many fine features. New developments in the town are sensitive to its character

and work well. Good luck for the future of your Community Development Project.