

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **FOXFORD**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 25-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	27
The Built Environment	40	21	20
Landscaping	40	20	18
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	20	11
Tidiness	20	10	9
Residential Areas	30	14	14
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	15
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	164	144

Foxford, County Mayo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Foxford is welcome to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed entry form. It is good to note that local groups and business have sponsored litter bins and that you are working to your four year plan and liaising with statutory bodies. The assistance of architects from Mayo County Council regarding colour schemes and other initiatives is bearing fruit. There has been a substantial increase in marks this year. Congratulations! Well done also on parking for disabled and on wheelchair access for disabled anglers. There are some fine scenic views both into and out of the town. On approaching the bridge on the Ballinagh entrance, the combination of church spire, streetscape and hills beyond is most appealing and creates an air of anticipation for an enjoyable experience in the town. There are fine views of the surrounding hills from many sites within the town which give the town a spacious feeling, which is important when streets are congested with traffic and car parking. Do keep us informed of your increasing cultural, historical, natural and social activities/amenities.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It is a pity about the poor quality of a number of roofs which are entirely visible from the bridge. This is a blot on the natural amenity value of the both the river and the built environment. Properties are presented to a high standard in general and many retain their traditional features.

LANDSCAPING

Tree planting on the footpath from the Swinford entrance looks well in addition to other small plants here. There is an excellent section in the Tidy Towns Handbook on landscaping and choice of plants which you may find useful.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

We note with interest the reference in your application to a corn crane nesting project. Perhaps you can fill us in with some more information on your progress and results over the next few years. Perhaps an information plaque could be located somewhere in the town detailing the riverside walk and also the disabled access for anglers.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control has improved since last year's presentation. Well done! It is good to note the involvement of the entire community in combating the problem. Do not confine your

efforts to summer months only.

TIDINESS

The car wrecks and the remains of the petrol pumps at Killeen Engineering are unfortunate, however the car wrecks are being stored in a tidy manner. An undeveloped site at the bridge on the entrance from the Ballinagh road presents another problem under this heading. Some yards on the town side of the bridge over the river are untidy also.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The single storey residential development on the bridge out the Ballinagh road is a pleasant development. Some walls need to be cleaned and / or painted. The new properties under construction here and those recently completed harmonise well with the existing development. A good overall presentation under this heading.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The new stretch of footpath out the Ballinagh road looks especially well. Do try to keep it free of weed growth along its kerbs. Approach roads to the town exhibited sporadic displays of wildflowers which are appealing, however the area immediately around the nameplate should be kept cut back, so that it is clearly visible. Old stone walls (for example, a stretch along the Ballinagh road) might be revealed more and highlighted as a feature of this entrance to the town. A number of signs need to be cleaned. The area around one nameplate was neatly presented and nicely landscaped. The hard shoulder out the Pontoon road needs to be finished and a fair amount of weeding was necessary here also. It is good to note the absence of overhead service cables. Street furniture, particularly the lampstandards, look well.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Foxford continues to improve in its presentation each year and looked very well during our visit. There has been a substantial increase in marks due to the accumulation of work achieved over the past few years. Well done!