

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **WESTPORT**  
County : **MAYO**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	36	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	18
Litter Control	40	28	29
Tidiness	20	18	17
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	32
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>237</b>

## **Westport, County Mayo**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The first glimpse of Westport on approaching from the Castlebar road is quite magnificent with the town being nestled at the foot of Croagh Patrick and the approach road itself beautifully landscaped. The townscape is quite magnificent with its wonderful town centre and the dramatic rise and fall of its streets. There are some fine scenic views both into and out of the town. The town with its backdrop of landscape and seascape is beautifully complemented by an excellent presentation. A sketch map of the town showing the location of major projects, particularly the woodland development and the Poll na gCapaill would have been useful but thank you for the other details supplied. Westport is welcome to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The majority of properties in the town are presented to a high standard and there are many new developments replacing derelict buildings. Side and back areas such as one at the 'Bargain Basket' should, of course, also be presented to a high standard and judging by your submission, the committee is aware of this and is taking steps in this regard. The Town Hall and adjoining building featuring the "Clarke TV" sign could both be upgraded. There are many contenders for Best Shopfront Awards in Westport.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The numerous flowerbeds in the town centre were colourful. However perhaps permanent planting of shrubs for seasonal interest rather than bedding plants would be more appropriate in the long run. The proposed landscaping scheme to Poll na gCapaill looks promising if it is completed to the standard of landscaping featured generally throughout the town. Young trees are maturing well.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The park at the harbour was presented to a high standard in almost all respects. The old boat, however needed to be restocked with plants. The colourful stretches of buttercups, oxeyedaisies and a variety of ferns on the Newport road displayed a natural charm and made for an excellent introduction to Westport from this road. Landscaping on both the Castlebar and Ballinrobe roads will mature well to make an important contribution to the townscape. The proposed amenity and woodland development at Colonel's Woods will enhance the recreational amenity value of Westport significantly.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control was reasonably good around the town, although a light scattering was noted. It was weakest perhaps, at the harbour area, yet it did not present a significant problem. Litter bins here however were full to capacity. Another weak area was the area near the statue of Our Lady on the way down to the harbour.

## **TIDINESS**

Ensure that all building materials are removed upon completion of construction work and do try to encourage the owners of low buildings to treat their roofs, particularly when these are corrugated. A low rusted corrugated roof on the Ballinrobe entrance to the town was unsightly. The old stone walls on the Leenane road could be highlighted and featured by removing more of the growth, particularly near the bridge where a lot of the growth is simply weed growth. The banks of the smaller river at the Leenane Bridge featured a lot of rubble and rough growth. The car park on the road down to the working area of the harbour needs to be weeded. A wall adjoining the Little Scholars Montessori School looked quite decrepit.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Work in progress on the construction of new residential properties on the Ballinrobe entrance to the town was noted. Older residential properties at this end of the town are generally well presented. The newly constructed Monastery View development enjoys a magnificent view of the town and surrounding hills from its commanding position. This should be capitalised upon by maintaining its linear green area to a higher standard. This will also serve to encourage growth in the recently planted young trees. There are no serious problems under this heading.

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

The new town nameplates look exceptionally well as do other items of street furniture, especially the attractive lampstandards. Car parking is well catered for around Westport and finished to a high standard in all cases. The new town map displays at various points around the town are both useful and attractively designed and appear to be vandal-proof. The ducting of service cables together with the attractive lampstandards and orderly car parking enhances the visual amenity value of the town centre. Some of the older seats need to be revarnished and one across from the Old Railway Hotel could be repaired. Work in progress to roads and footpaths was noted along the North Mall and along James Street.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Westport is a beautiful town which seems to be improved on every visit. Work achieved to date is commendable. The town is being considered for several awards.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (04/08/99)**

The magnificent town of Westport set as it is in marvellous scenery looked well on second adjudication day. Litter control was generally quite good although a light scattering was evident along the Mall. The riverside area itself was reasonably clean throughout the village and by the library. In this vicinity the new leisure centre with its good use of natural materials, such as stone and timber, was greatly admired. A skip filled with mattresses by a B&B on the Newport Road appeared to have been there quite a while and looked most unfortunate. Some outbuildings further along this road were in need of some attention and create a bad impression on approaching the town. Your landscaping proposals for the woodland area etc., enclosed with your application, looked most appealing and interesting – the subtle interventions are entirely appropriate. At the FCA Head Quarters the sign, boundary wall, flagpole and gates appeared quite rusty – the yield sign in this vicinity also looked quite faded. In terms of other street furniture the new maps of the town were admired. The standardisation of your B&B signs is to be commended as there are very many of them. The attractive new limestone bollards on Boffin Street were greatly admired as indeed were the magnificent new timber sculptures throughout the town with their marvellous and varied textures. The main buildings of the town looked well apart from one or two which appeared quite neglected – on Bridge Street, the opticians and the old Londis create a bad impression. There is still an abundance of advertising hoardings on approach roads and indeed in the town centre such as on Castlebar Street. These should be discouraged. Perhaps a landscaping project could be considered in the Clocktower area as it appears quite bare and forlorn. The attractive stone building on the Octagon should be restored to its former glory as it is most unique. What appears to be land fill area to the front of Westport Sea Angling Centre at the quay side looks quite neglected and should be considered for future development. The town of Westport has expanded rapidly over the last number of years – it is looking well despite the problem of severe traffic congestion.