

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GRANGE**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	26	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	13
Litter Control	40	29	26
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	186	176

Grange, County Sligo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The completed questionnaire and map were helpful on the day of adjudication. This adjudicator did not receive a copy of your development plan again this year. Your fund raising ventures, continued co-operation with the County Council, and other interested bodies was again noted, and the benefits of these partnerships will continue to enhance and enrich the village and its community.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The new development beside Barry's Pub immediately draws attention to itself as you drive through the village, this development when appropriately finished, will certainly enhance the streetscape. Many of the business premises and public buildings were well presented, with some attractive flower features. Langs looks well now it is completed. Cloontys with its attractive stone flower bed, Kilfeathers, and L.Watter's look well. The old school needed its grass cut, and the new school with its original design and attractive gardens, looked very well. The Church, grounds and Parochial House and hall were very well maintained, with some nice landscape features and some fine stone walls behind the buildings. The walls at the new house and Barry's have complemented the fine old walls in this area, and the tidying up continues. Once again the bilingual sign was noted at the Grange Leader Office. The derelict house on the VEC Road looks very unsightly, and it is also important that the screening fence is maintained at the other derelict site in this area, or its original purpose is defeated. An attractive back garden at Barry's was noted in this area, but as the front of this pub is in a focal position on the junction it must be kept tidy, and street furnishing well maintained. The Leisure Centre, looked dull, it could still improve its presentation to make the building more inviting. The new building under construction should enhance this corner area when properly completed, it would be nice to see the owners utilise the fine stone on the site. Grange Court House is a fine stone feature building and looks well. The premises in the Industrial area, had a very mixed presentation, Willies had some nice flower features, Conways was tidy, Sligo Aluminium looked fine, but they all need to pay some attention to their forecourt areas, boundary fences, and landscape features. The open area on the school side still looks very untidy. Gilroys Tile Factory had some attractive landscaping towards the front of the premises. The Mart still needs a lot of attention to its building and forecourt. Work was in progress with the former Sligo Crystal building and it is good to see a possible business venture as a replacement tenant in this building. Some development work is taking place at the football pitch and this should look well on completion. The premises past

the pitch continues to look untidy and as a tradition old shop deserves some attention, be it simple cosmetic painting.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping features throughout the village looked very well on the day of adjudication and contribute to the overall attractive presentation of the village. Planters with some lovely lilies were noted on the traffic islands, as were the flower beds at the village signs. St. Molaise Park is a very attractive focal point for the centre of the village with its very handsome and unusual stone grotto and statue, attractive landscaping features with a balanced mixture of plants to provide colour and content throughout the year. The footpaths, trees and beds on the Bundoran approach road look very well, with a thoughtful mix of planting, all contributing towards an attractive first impression of Grange on this approach to the village. It would be particularly nice if you could have a similar landscaping feature on the Sligo approach for a dual impact.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a relatively new category in the competition, and the Committee have an important role to play in the appropriate development and conservation of the natural environment. There are many other opportunities for enhancing and conserving wildlife habitats and the environment within the village. Wild flower meadows / grass areas, nesting boxes, pond/water features, trees and hedgerows offer immediate opportunities. It is good to note that the school has become involved in this important area. You have also identified a location on the map close to the river as a wildlife area, but you have not presented your plans for this area to allow comment. Seek the assistance of relevant local bodies, ENFO, or a local wildlife expert to develop this category of the competition.

LITTER CONTROL

Both the village and approach were virtually free from litter on the day of adjudication. Preventative programmes, good litter bins and vigilance are all elements of this category. Your Litter awareness project, circulars and voluntary clean up groups are all contributing to this very important area. Do try and sustain this good effort, well done.

TIDINESS

The good road surface and footpaths, tidy properties and landscape features, all contribute to a generally tidy appearance. As stated last year, dereliction continues to be a problem, but is a challenge faced and addressed by many other villages in the competition. The farm buildings at the back of the Church, and some of the buildings on the way to

Pine Grove continue to detract from the overall appearance of the village, and some of these buildings could look well if they were just tidied up, and/or a simple cosmetic paint job applied where appropriate. The recycling bins were well located and tidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many of the houses in and on the approaches to the village were generally well presented and maintained. Some tidy hedges and boundary walls, flowers, tubs and hanging baskets were noted. Once again the beautiful and colourful flowers in some individual gardens were noted. Well done to all concerned. However, these highlight the properties that still need to improve their presentation. The tidy grass area and planters were noted in Pine Grove, but some property owners need to repair their boundary fences in this area. In Glenview Park, the foot paths, trees, stone work, and landscaping completed to date, looks really well, and this whole area will look very well when all the houses are complete.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads are the first impression of any village and require particular attention for this reason. Attractive signage, nicely faced hedges and tidy verges that did not compromise the flora and fauna were noted on all the approach roads, with some very attractive landscaping on the Bundoran side of the village. The roads and traffic calming measures are now complete and look well. The road behind the Church still needs some attention. Once again the road to Pine Grove looked very well, with the very tidy grass verge highlighting a lovely stone wall. The attractive stone wall outside the house on the corner of the Streedagh road looks well and complements the older stone wall opposite.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Grange is situated on the main route for many tourist and domestic destinations. Any positive development enhances and enriches both the town and community and, increases the attraction for people to stop and enjoy what is on offer in the village. We look forward to seeing your Development Plan next year. Persevere with the dereliction issue and keep up the good work.