

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **LOCH GOWNA**  
County : **CAVAN**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	38
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	31	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	24
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	29
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>227</b>

## Lough Gowna, County Cavan

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Lough Gowna Tidy Towns Committee is still maintaining its extremely high standard. It appears that some of the recommendations in your plan are not suitable and this is disappointing. However, it is an ill wind that does not blow some good and the proposal that the laying of electric cables underground will be explored when the sewerage scheme is completed. Many thanks for the questionnaire which you completed in great detail.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

First to catch the adjudicator's eye was the primary school, nicely painted with its lovely floral displays and window boxes. The colourful painted posters in the windows which obviously was a competition run by you for the primary school children is excellent. It is very important to make the children aware of this essential element of your village. These children are the Tidy Towns Committee of the future! Two slogans which caught the eye were - ***Keep Gowna Tidy*** and ***Pick Litter and Gowna will glitter.*** Congratulations to all concerned. The Catholic Church and grounds were well maintained with beautiful mature trees which creates a most impressive entrance on this approach to the village. The Church of Ireland, grounds and cemetery were also nicely presented. Again premises worthy of note were White's Lounge, The Piker's Lodge, Fitzpatrick's Tavern, The Post Office all very attractive with their nice shopfronts and magnificent hanging baskets and window boxes. - Superb! Well done! The pump on the Longford Road needs restoring.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The villagers are to be congratulated on the magnificent floral display - hanging baskets and window baskets abound throughout the village. The village green was perfectly trimmed and flowers and shrubs in full bloom on adjudication day. On each of the approach roads there were attractive flower/shrubbery beds at various locations as one enters the village. Remember first impressions are most important. Well done here! The ball alley, as last year, is nicely presented and there were teenagers playing tennis and enjoying this amenity area on adjudication day. All private houses had an extremely high standard of presentation.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The sanctuary with an ornithological flavour at the lakeshore is a most important development in terms of the Tidy Towns Competition. It is recommended that the lakeshore walks could also be part of this habitat. It also offers an opportunity to involve the children of Lough Gowna in devising a proper notice board identifying the different species of wildlife which abound in the area. As advised last year, work in conjunction with relevant local bodies, Duchas, or a local wildlife expert.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The litter bins are very attractive. However, some of them are in bad condition and need to be replaced. In spite of this there was no litter evident on adjudication day.

## **TIDINESS**

The appearance of the village was one of neatness and tidiness and the high standard of the commercial premises and private dwellings all contribute to the ambience of Lough Gowna. Some weeds were visible at the base of the nice stone wall on Church Road. Please be vigilant in this regard.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The houses on all the approaches and within the village itself have first rate presentation with excellent gardens, hedges, shrubs, window boxes and hanging baskets and, as last year, some private houses have attractive stone boundary walls. A nicely trimmed hedge was noted at Church Lake entrance to conceal an unkempt open space – great effort to detail here! One house was noted on the Cavan Road beside the amenity area which needs attention. The corrugated roofed buildings on the Granard Road which are well screened, the roof is in bad repair and needs to be replaced.

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

The approach roads to Lough Gowna are very well maintained with nicely trimmed verges, hedges and floral displays which generate a sense of anticipation. On the Cavan Road the lovely stone wall and footpath surrounding the amenity area is striking. The town signs set in concrete base are a very nice feature. One problem is that some of the road surfaces were not in a good state of repair and need resurfacing and as stated last year, the most noticeable was outside the primary school. Some of the road signs in the village need replacing.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

This adjudicator was most impressed by the atmosphere of

this lovely lakeside village. The indefatigable efforts of the Tidy Towns Committee and the residents of Lough Gowna is to be admired.

### **SECOND ADJUDICATION (03/08/00)**

Some litter was evident at the shop near the 'Hire All' premises. Otherwise litter control was good in the village and Lough Gowna had an overall ambience of tidiness. The 'pockets' of Nastertiums on the stone wall in the village were appealing. A stone wall is suggested for the field boundary located across from the church. This can be a full stone wall or half stone and half hedgerow. Take opportunities to plant hedgerow along all wire and post fencing. Hawthorn and Beechrow together are suggested both for winter colour and for their wildlife value. Well done on the interpretive panel giving details of walks in the hinterland. These should now be signposted to either Cospóir or Slí na Sláinte standards. We look forward to the ducting of service cables. Different local authorities have different standards / requirements for tree planting on footpaths and in village centres. What might be acceptable by one local authority may not be by another. Your landscaped areas looked well.