

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **AUGHNACLIFFE**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21	20
The Built Environment	40	18	17
Landscaping	40	18	17
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	12	12
Tidiness	20	9	8
Residential Areas	30	14	13
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	15	15
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	128	122

Aughnaccliffe, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Aughnaccliffe is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the new millennium. The village looked splendid in its rural setting on adjudication day and the dramatic rise and fall of its main street stimulated curiosity. We note with interest the projects identified for the village and which you plan to implement in the next two to three years. We wish you luck. In particular, we wish you success with provision of a footpath on the east side of the village. Well done on your information panel. Your programme of events from the beginning of the new millennium to April has been impressive. No doubt you will be equally successful with the small park project and it will be completed by the end of the year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The church building which enjoys a magnificent location on the crest of the hill and which can be viewed from many approach roads into Aughnaccliffe is an important landmark. The building itself and its grounds, e.g. the graveyards are being well maintained. Stone wall construction has been noted and is a welcome addition to the built environment. Some sections, however, appear to be a little less well built than most. Perhaps the old church railings which are to be replaced with a stone wall might be refurbished and re-used elsewhere in the village as they feature some nice detail. A set of gates across from the telephone kiosk are also interesting. The Post Office looks well, however, the adjacent buildings and out buildings are a visual blot on their streetscape. 'Reynolds' pub could receive some attention to its roadside façade, as indeed could the 'Hourican' property. The refurbishment of the wall at the Eircom utility building should be included in your list of projects.

LANDSCAPING

Young trees are establishing themselves nicely and older trees are maturing well also. The variety of trees and shrubs around the village together with colourful flower displays are a very attractive feature. The high grey walls beyond the Post Office could be planted with climbing plants to soften their visual impact. The retaining wall of the shrubbery at 'Reynolds' carpark badly needs to be cleaned or painted. No doubt the small green area beside 'Houricans' pub will be landscaped in due time, it will make a fine small amenity park. An incidental corner located across from 'Scoil Naomh Padraig' at the road junction could feature a rockery and appropriate shrubs.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

An appropriate project under this heading would be to identify the various wildlife habitats of the area and take any necessary conservation steps. The fine displays of Cow Parsley and Buttercups along verges of approach road together with stretches of traditional hedgerow are a valuable heritage and should be retained. In particular the hedgerow should be properly managed for wildlife conservation.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was a problem both down at the lake carpark itself and also at the road junction from the main road to the lake. Perhaps the twice weekly sweeping of the village could be extended to this corner of the Gowna road and the carpark at the lake.

TIDINESS

There is an overall ambience of tidiness in Aughnaclyffe, however do remember to remove all building materials when construction work has ceased. The derelict petrol pump could be masked appropriately as an interim measure. Old pallets located here and there around the village should be removed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The garden of the residential property at the nameplate on the Rathmore entrance to the village is an excellent introduction to the village from this road. The nameplate itself should be repainted as an interim measure until new nameplates are in place. The great majority of properties look attractive and have nice gardens, however most boundary walls are weather stained and could be cleaned or painted. Some attention should also be given to roadside areas to boundary walls of residential properties.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The good quality timber post fencing which lines the main street from the Rathmore Cross towards the church is a most attractive feature of Aughnaclyffe. Many stretches of wall need to be cleaned or painted. The carpark at Reynolds is grossly under-developed and detracts from the scenic view of the lake at this end of the village. A traditional gate post on the Rathmore Road just before the junction with the main road should be refurbished and highlighted as a feature of this entrance to the village. Perhaps good quality timber gates or panels for the existing gates could be provided for the yards along the main street which store building materials. The existing petrol pump located at the 'Post' premises needs to be cleaned.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Aughnaclyffe is extremely favourable. The new information panel which links the village with its hinterland and other villages therein is a valuable asset.