

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **AUGHAGOWER**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	21
Litter Control	40	31	32
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	220	219

Aughagower, County Mayo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Aughagower Community Council is obviously a dedicated one -we wish you good luck in your endeavours to get more of the local residents involved in your hard work. If you have a three to five year work programme do submit it each year with your documentation. If not, perhaps you could put one into action for next year's competition. The document need be only two to three pages long setting out your plans for your village and setting out a timescale for achieving these objectives. It would be of immense benefit to both yourselves and the adjudicator when assessing the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The adjudicator was disappointed to note that several of the premises (mentioned in both first and second adjudication's last year) had not yet been improved upon. Carney's cottage needs to be re-whitewashed, the Community Centre, including the tin roof, and the old national school with its boarded up windows looked unfortunate. The handball and racket court, again mentioned last year, is still in need of a fresh coat of paint. In contrast Cannon's Pub looked very fresh in white with green trims. The church was fine although some papers were evident in the adjacent roadway.

LANDSCAPING

The picnic area by the stream was well maintained with its purple rhododendrons and overhanging silver birches. The new bridge, leading you over to the new monument to St. Patrick, was admired. However, some litter was evident below the traffic bridge. The Marion Shrine was well maintained with its mix of green permanent planting and a splash of colour from the roses. However, the rear badly needed a coat of paint, as it looked quite grey as one approaches it from the shop.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

A wealth of wildlife was obvious on the day including butterflies playing in the sunshine, hawthorn in the hedgerows and yellow flag irises to the field opposite the community centre. Perhaps you could incorporate a wildlife walk with Tóchar Phadraig. The discreet timber finger boards denoting this route were admired throughout the general area.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control on the day was quite good. The

timber litter bins have been well maintained. However, a number of problem outbreaks were evident on closer inspection. A piece of plastic was evident on the Croaghrim Rim Road. Quite a few papers were evident on Main Street outside the pubs and post office. Quite a lot of rubbish was evident on the Leenane Road and some papers were evident on the Westport Road near the junction with Main Street.

TIDINESS

Much work was evident on the day, which always creates a good impression. The graveyards were being maintained and a stone wall was under construction. A tin roofed whitewashed shed beyond the handball court on the Leenane Road was in need of paint. The skip beside the handball court created a bad impression. A rusty pole missing its road sign on the Croaghrim Rim Road looked unfortunate. The newer graveyard wall, again mentioned in last year's report should be painted up and a pile of sand was evident to the adjacent parking area.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A pink two storey house with a stone boundary wall bounded a magnificent cottage garden. Some houses have recently been completed – do ensure that these maintain the village's essential character. A charming yellow cottage with green trims around the opes was admired adjacent to the stream. Generally, houses throughout the village and along approach roads were well maintained.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category was quite good. Many of them afford the visitor magnificent glimpses of the round tower and church belfry beyond. Rocks were in place which presumably will eventually contain the village's name. On the Croaghrim Rim Road some dead weeds were apparent at the bases of stone walls and a stone under construction. Wild ferns were apparent on the Leenane Road as indeed were roses, daisies, blackberry blossom and honeysuckle. However, quite a lot of papers and rubbish created a bad impression. Along the Westport Road the verges had been well maintained and the stone surround to the planted bed surrounding the tree was admired. Some dead weeds were also evident to the base of the stone wall near to the village centre on the road to the graveyards.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Aughagower is a charming little village filled with areas of historical, cultural and archaeological interest. It looked as well as ever on adjudication day, however, some of the buildings had yet to be freshly painted following last year's competition.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (06/08/00)

This is a very interesting village with such a remarkable association with St. Patrick. A great deal of work has been done to bring the village to the present standard. The stone wall building in particular is of special note. The Streamside Park is attractive with the new bridge and the millennium altar; the painting over the altar within the church forming a similar theme. There is a considerable amount of cemetery to be maintained and this requires the co-operation of many people, which hopefully will be forthcoming in a village where such pride is justifiable. The cemetery by the stream needs attention where grass cutting has started. Litters was noted along by Scott's shop and down by the church also a little in the stream. Newly planted climbing plants were noted at the handball court. Some road signs need cleaning and alignment.