

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BEAL AN MHUIRHEAD**  
County : **MAYO**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	32
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	18	18
Tidiness	20	10	12
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>183</b>

## **Beal an Mhuirthead, County Mayo**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Your plans for Belmullet certainly seem to be sensible ones. You have divided the town up into its various areas which will make it easier to tackle. Your plans for the restoration of the old church are to be applauded – good luck with your grant application. The adjudicator was also pleased to note that the erection of stone walling on approach roads had commenced and this is being further extended. The Baile Glan, Baile Glas, Baile Gaelach campaign is a worthwhile one. Good luck with its implementation.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The schools could have been presented to a higher standard. In particular, that facing the sea front in yellow with brown trims was badly in need of a paint. The Social Welfare Office with its high stone surrounding wall was admired as was Comhar Iorrais Teoranta. Brogan's was very fresh, as was Centra, Londis, Lavelle's, the Anchor Bar and Cafferkey's in pink. Projecting plastic signs should be discouraged. The florist looked very cheerful with a red shop front and yellow facade. The new building to the main square is coming along well. The Fire Station looked fine, although its tower was in need of freshening up. The church was fine although its concrete forecourt area looked bare and would benefit from some softening in terms of landscaping – the tower looks a bit unfortunate especially as it is visible from the Black Sod Road. There are some shopfronts that look quite dated and would benefit from modernisation. The Leabharlann and Post Office were fine although the derelict adjacent property looked unfortunate. The Garda Station is a well maintained modern building with attractive landscaping. The forecourt area to the sports hall was on the weedy side. The banks all looked well – Banc na hEireann in its corporate colours, Banc Uladh and the AIB in its yellow and purple colours. The archways of the town could be developed into attractive spaces that to the tennis courts looks most unfortunate. The stone paving of the square was greatly admired.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Your tree planting is to be commended – there is always a difficulty in wind swept locations such as these – those to the road by an Trá Beag seem to be suffering. The attractive planting to the area adjacent to the grotto was admired as were the marvelous gravel planted beds near the pier area along the sea shore at Black Sod Bay. The Town Park area by the canal was well maintained with its grid of grass between widely set paving stones, pedestrian bridge and attractive planting, the limestone and granite seats although the bridge

could be freshened up before next year's competition. Maintenance work was ongoing to the rockery by the vehicular bridge at America Street. The donkey cart filled with planting outside the Fire Station looked most cheerful.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

An Trá Beag project will be well worthwhile taking in as it does the historical as well as the natural aspects of Belmullet. The protected nature of the ecology of the peninsula is to be commended. At the wetlands area an unattractive, rusty and broken down concrete post and wire fence looked unfortunate as did the adjacent area of dumping on the main road. However, there was much evidence of bird life on the day.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The standard in this category of the competition could have been higher on the day. Quite a lot of bottles, paper cups and rubbish dumped by the recycling bins at the pier near the town square looked most unfortunate. A number of papers were evident in the planting adjacent to the pedestrian bridge, quite a lot of papers were blowing around the main square and along Main Street.

## **TIDINESS**

The standard in this category could also have been higher. Rubbish to the laneway behind the take-away on the square looked unfortunate – this area should be screened from public view. The pile of earth and rubbish – evidence of dumping to the area between the wetlands and Brogan's looked most unpleasant. A number of buildings, even if abandoned, would benefit greatly from a fresh coat of paint. Two murals in the town centre would be improved by a fresh paint. Concrete post fencing on approach roads is being tackled and replaced with stone walling. There was quite a lot of rubbish mentioned previously on the pier area off the square. The rear of buildings on Barrack Street visible from this location, the adjudicator was pleased to note, will be tackled in the near future. A most attractive building to the far side of the water appeared to be abandoned and a rusty metal frame had obviously been dumped here. This could be a most attractive amenity area with its cheerful fishing boats.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The numerous B&B's with their attractive raised gardens on the Bangor Road were admired, in particular, one beside the grotto. The new terrace of houses in their soft earthy tones on Barrack Street looked most attractive. The pretty single storey cottages to the sea facing Black Sod Bay were admired as were the very freshly whitewashed plaster walls to the porched cottages on this road. The colourful houses adjacent to the ESB shop were admired. The grassy lawns and

colourful flowerbeds of Father Mulhern Crescent – one in particular with a magnificent display of easter lilies and marigolds were admired.

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

A new stone wall was in progress on the Bangor Road. The relatively new trees with their timber surrounds are coming along nicely. This is an attractive entrance to the town as it overlooks the water. The Black Sod / Ballyglas Road affords the visitor an attractive view to the town spreading out before them. The surface of the road was not in good condition further out. However, the new trees and granite nameplate were admired. Signage such as town nameplates and directional signs were well maintained- perhaps consideration should be given to the erection of street nameplates.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Belmullet, situated as it is on the Mullet Peninsula certainly a place of interest for the visitor in terms of its magnificent natural environment and rich historical and cultural location. The adjudicator enjoyed the rich smell of turf smoke while strolling through the streets of the town.