

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASTLEBAR**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	44
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	17
Litter Control	40	22	20
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	210	204

Castlebar, County Mayo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator noted your comments in relation to the town being judged on year round effort rather than how it looks on the day and would like to assure you that all of these factors are taken into account when considering both marking and comments within the report itself. Many thanks for your most clear map which was extremely useful on the day. It certainly seemed to have been an extremely busy year for you if the full documentation forming your submission is anything to go by! Your plans for the future development of the town are eagerly awaited.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the buildings in the town looked well maintained on adjudication day and sported some fine mature and well cared for landscaping. The train station was fine and the Fire and Garda Stations looked magnificent with their attractively landscaped grounds. Commercial premises had also followed suit, for example Baxter's Healthcare which also had some attractive landscaping. The main streets of the town generally looked well and sported some colourful hanging baskets. One or two projecting plastic signs are still in evidence, one in particular looked most unfortunate as it was just an empty frame. The Bank of Ireland could be painted before next year's competition. Christ Church and the Post Office – the latter in brick, looked most attractive. The grounds of the hospital were admired, however, the boundary wall should be freshened up before next year's competition- perhaps this had been postponed due to construction work. The adjudicator was pleased to note the number of new shop fronts in the town and your encouragement of the use of the Irish language is most commendable. The striking modern leisure centre at Lough Lannagh village was almost sparkling in its freshness on the day! Landscaping to Castlebar Urban District Council grounds also looked most attractive. The problem areas in this regard were the rear of buildings from the main streets of the town to the car park on Market Street, a lot of which seemed to be in quite bad condition. The Sunflower Lounge leading up to Market Street looked quite unfortunate and neglected.

LANDSCAPING

This is an aspect of the competition in which you obviously excel and show a great interest. The high level of maintenance of grounds is apparent in both commercial and public premises. The attractive planting to the Environmental Protection Agency was admired. New trees were coming along nicely of Breaffy Road. The roundabouts displaying their modern sculptures and floral tributes looked extremely

well and the timber surrounds to the flowers at the bases of the town nameplates were admired. The mall looked as quietly elegant as ever. The competitions in relation to this aspect of the competition within the town itself are obviously paying off. Your proposals in relation to the Market Square and Courthouse refurbishments are eagerly awaited. Of particular note in this category was the magnificent landscaping to Lough Lannagh Village which looked quite marvellous. This complex fits well into its surrounds. The new planting complements the existing – the use of “caravan-bays” set between landscaped banks with their individual powerpoints was a clever feature. Lough Lannagh Environmental Enhancement Scheme will hopefully develop in as sympathetic a manner. The new lighting here was admired, however there were some graffiti on picnic tables.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your Lough Lannagh Environmental Enhancement Scheme is a most worthy one. And your aims of creating a valuable amenity for visitor and local alike and development of the two historical/cultural sites is to be commended. The adjudicator was pleased to note the surveying of the wildlife of the lake and admired the wildlife/history board adjacent to the car park – certainly on the day a lot of activity by the visiting swallows was in evidence! The Lilly pads to the lake were also admired. The attention to detail that has been given to Lough Lannagh should now be focussed on the rest of the town in terms of an overall wildlife management plan. Your Tidy Town's Handbook will give you ideas and contact phone numbers for relevant organisations in this regard. Hopefully Castlebar's “best kept secret” will be one no longer!

LITTER CONTROL

There would appear to have been much improvement in this regard since last year's competition. However, it still seems to be somewhat of a problem. A couple of papers and cans were evident on the Westport Road in particular by the welcome sign. More was evident on the Dublin/Sligo Road and the very odd paper was in evidence along the main streets of the town. However, overflowing litterbins at the car parks of Lough Lannagh and at Market Square looked most unfortunate. Your work in this regard in relation to litter warden and campaign for improvements are to be commended. Good luck with your future work.

TIDINESS

The town generally looked quite neat and ordered on adjudication day. A number of neglected buildings however detracted from the overall presentation. The Airport Bar on the Breaffy Road looked quite neglected. Other buildings have been noted elsewhere in this report. A boundary wall at the Breaffy Road / Westport Road junction looked unfortunate and

should be painted before next year's competition. Weed control was generally very good although some were evident to the curbs at the entrance to Lough Lannagh Village. A skip and building materials at the car park were evident on the day. Do ensure their removal once building construction is complete.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses of the town generally looked well cared for on adjudication day. An attractive garden to a B&B extending to the roadside on the Breaffy Road was admired as was a new housing development just before the town nameplate sign on this road. The Maryland Estate was well cared for. An attractive development was noted along the Ring Road adjacent to the Texaco station – it sported some wide landscaped beds of permanent planting each side of the entrance where two stones awaited the setting of the estate nameplate. A number of houses on the Westport Road were admired. Some boundary walls on the Claremorris/Roscommon Road appeared quite grubby. A most attractive development of houses in natural earth tones of yellow, green and terracotta on this road were admired. Your competition in relation to the maintenance of houses and green areas is to be highly commended. The discreet and vernacular-style cottages of the Lough Lannagh Village were greatly admired.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The entrance to the town on the Breaffy approach looked quite overgrown although cut more neatly closer the town. However, the new trees were coming along nicely. The verges on the Westport Road had been roughly cut and the odd paper or can was evident. The Ring Road was largely well maintained with well cut grass verges with dense planting behind. Quite a lot of litter was evident on the Dublin / Sligo Roads although the new trees were coming along well. Some directional signs in the centre of the town should be washed down. In relation to street furniture a post box by the Building Society should be painted before next year's competition.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The busy town of Castlebar looked well on adjudication day. It is improving from year to year. It obviously is fortunate to have a busy and dedicated Tidy Towns Committee! Good luck with your future endeavours.