

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **FOXFORD**  
County : **MAYO**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	22	21
Landscaping	40	20	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	20	20
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	15	14
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	20
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>164</b>

## **Foxford, County Mayo**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Many thanks for your completed application form. Perhaps for next year's competition you could submit your work programme which was mentioned in last year's report and yet not received with this year's application - a map would also have been most useful on adjudication day. The village is obviously making a consistent and structured progress in the competition. Good luck with your future endeavours.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Do discourage plastic signage – there is quite a lot to Deane's Restaurant. These should be replaced with more traditional timber ones. The bridge was in good condition. However, some rusty tin sheds and (what is presumably) an old convent building in bad condition with broken windows adjacent to the bridge, created a bad impression as one entered the village. Clarke's Funeral home was fine and the Leabharlann looked quite charming. Both churches were in good condition - in particular, the Catholic Church with its steps and cheerful bunting. The bright colours of the national school were admired. The Admiral Brown Memorial Hall was fine, however, its door was quite flaky. The Post Office was fine but should be freshened up before next year's competition, as should the ESB sub-station. Perhaps some creeper could be considered to the fence outside it. The Pottery Shop looked very bright in red, yellow and blue – it was interesting to see their sequential photographs of the progress they had made while restoring the building. Do discourage the storage of goods on the pavement such as at the shop opposite the Catholic Church. The tin walls to the Foxford Mills Visitor Centre should be freshly painted. Centra was in the process of being painted on the day, the Mayflower Hotel looked very fresh and Doherty's Butchers looked charming with its simple sign painted above.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The forecourt area to Kileen's Garage is ripe for development under this category of the competition. Do replace the concrete post and wire fencing to the roadside with a hedge of indigenous hawthorn or beech. The bronze goat on the rock outside the pottery was admired. The hanging baskets to the lamp standards could have been more profuse in their planting. The area below the bridge was fine although some litter was apparent. The new trees to the riverside were admired, as was the new gateway with its leaping salmon at the steps leading down.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Your work in regard to the preservation of the corncrake is to be commended. The board indicating wildlife along the river such as Gaelic Terns, the local geology, bogs and plants is most informative.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The standard in this category was quite inconsistent on the day. Papers were evident along the roadside by the Catholic Church and in front of Cruisers. Some litter had accumulated in the grilles at the bases of trees but besides this the centre of the village was generally quite good.

## **TIDINESS**

The village looked reasonably tidy on the day. There were far too many advertising hoardings on the Ballina Road, giving it a quite cluttered appearance - weeds were apparent to the bases of boundary walls closer to the village. A laneway opposite the pottery should either be tidied or screened from public view, as should the yard area behind Quinn's by the bridge. A bare frame which was missing its sign looked unfortunate close to Centra and the gable wall of the Angler's Bar was quite grubby.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There was quite a lot of new housing and construction along approach roads. The pretty stone cottages on the Ballina Road were admired. The Mill Park housing estate of bungalows on the Swinford Road was well maintained. R&R Nurseries is an attractive bay fronted house with stone entrance area and colourful rose bushes outside. Bridge Mill House was very fresh in orange and peach. An attractive garden filled with rhododendrons sweeping to the roadside stone boundary wall on the Castlebar Road looked well and the pretty mint green house with the unusual barge board and porthole window in the gable was admired as was the magnificent garden to a bungalow adjacent to the Catholic Church.

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

The Ballina Road between the welcome sign and the speed limit sign was very overgrown although the daisies were admired. Along the Swinford Road, the stone wall was admired although the nasturtiums had yet to come into bloom. Along the Castlebar Road the nasturtiums and well cut verges were admired. This road was in much better condition than the others. Again, the daisies by the speed limit sign looked quite charming.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Foxford is an interesting village to visit with its soft smell of turf smoke and busy river filled with anglers.