

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KILLALA**  
County : **MAYO**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	--
The Built Environment	40	23	--
Landscaping	40	24	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	--
Litter Control	40	25	--
Tidiness	20	11	--
Residential Areas	30	17	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	--
General Impression	10	7	--
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>--</b>

## **Killala, County Mayo**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Killala is most welcome to the competition in this its first year of entry. Your town is certainly one with a rich history and cultural inheritance. Your plans for the redevelopment of the disused town park, incorporating as it does social housing and a day care centre is one well worth pursuing. The work in relationship to the derelict sites is commendable. Do try to formulate a more structured work plan, in terms of setting a timeframe for achieving results in each category of the competition.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Buildings of the town, both commercial and public, generally looked well cared for on the day. There was quite a lot of dereliction, many of the buildings being fine stone warehouses which would benefit greatly from redevelopment. The Anchor Bar was very fresh in well-toned shades of yellow, red and green and Humberts Lodge was most fresh in yellow and red. The deep colours to Ward's fresh facade were admired. Some staining was apparent to Lynn's. The small Garda Station was very fresh and charming. The stone nameplates either side of the entrance to the Community Centre were admired. However, the side area adjacent to the car park was quite rough and weedy and the rear area of the hall was extremely stained. Do discourage plastic signs such as those at Birrane's Supermarket and Charlie's Meats. These should be replaced with signs of a more traditional timber variety. Curved plastic canopies should also be replaced with more traditional fabric awnings. The Granuaile was also in need of a fresh coat of paint. The modern national school had some extremely well maintained grounds – however, the building itself, its boundary wall and gates were in need of a fresh coat of paint. The Catholic Church was very fresh but its boundary wall was stained and sported weeds at its base. The attractive low, long cottage which forms the Biodynamic Clinic on Quay Road sported some magnificent hanging baskets – however, the adjacent thatched cottage was not in very good condition. The Post Office looked quite charming with its display of hanging baskets and the Church of Ireland Cathedral sported an attractive stone bed filled with Sweet Williams. Much work is yet to be done on the fascinating and historically significant graveyard.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The monument to General Humbert was well-maintained, the attractive banking opposite the Community Centre and the green bank to Bartra Heights all looked extremely well. The planted area adjacent to the Old Deanery cottages is a good mix of grassy banks, stone walls, permanent planting and

flowers. The Food Park with its sculpture (– part of the Tir Sáile Sculpture Trail?) looked very well with its grassy mounds, multitudinous trees and monumental stones. However, a few weeds were apparent to the gravelled centre piece of this space which sports a magnificent view to the sea. The round tower must look quite breathtaking when floodlit at night – it was well maintained.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Do consult your Tidy Town's Handbook for information regarding development of this important aspect of the competition. This will give you contact names and numbers for organisations which will be able to advise you on the conservation of wildlife within your area. Local experts should also be consulted.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The standard of this was generally quite good on the day however, there were one or two problem areas. The odd paper was evident on the Shore Road, along the Ballina Road and at the entrance to Chapel Lane. More papers were evident on Quay Road, in particular to the fence edging the Food Park. Along the Crossmolina Road some was evident opposite Woodview Court. More was to be found at the bend of the road by the Church of Ireland Cathedral and the steps to the Round Tower. Generally, the main streets of the town were quite litter free.

## **TIDINESS**

The derelict sites are still causing a problem although the adjudicator was pleased to hear they are gradually declining in number. A fine stone warehouse on the Shore Road was in very bad condition and would benefit greatly from restoration. Weeds were apparent at its base and dead weeds to the back area by the Church of Ireland Cathedral. Graffiti had been painted out on the Ballina Road – do try to remove graffiti by a more professional means. A boarded-up house and warehouse on the laneway to the Round Tower looked unfortunate. This could be a most attractive laneway accessing as it does both the Round Tower and the rear of the holiday cottages.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The estate adjoining the Garda Station was well maintained while the pretty cottage with the stone bed to the front and side garden opposite, was greatly admired. An attractive bungalow opposite with a multitude of planting and hanging baskets also looked well. The old Deanery Holiday Cottages were well maintained and very fresh with their attractive steeply sloping roofs. The terrace of two storey cottages in pink, yellow and white opposite the monument were greatly

admired. Bartra Heights looked extremely well maintained after all the hard work, indeed it was even being painted on the day. Good luck with your negotiations with Mayo County Council in regard to Woodview Court – the gables to this estate looked unfortunate on the Crossmolina approach. The attractive raised gardens to the B&B's on Quay Road looked magnificent as did the pretty dormer cottages with magnificent gardens, and the attractive Georgian house with fanlight opposite the Post Office.

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

The Ballycastle Road had an attractive view to the church steeple and round tower. Do discourage the practice of hoarding as they can give the approach roads a very cluttered appearance. The stone walling should be re-instated where it has broken down. Along the Ballina Road the grass had been roughly cut and the dead grass each side of the road not removed at the speed limit sign. However, the relatively new trees in this area were admired. The sharp bend sign was quite grubby and a broken wall was also noted by the industrial estate. Quay Road and the Pier area were fine – the new low stone wall to the waters edge was admired. Along the Crossmolina Road there was a single grubby boundary wall – daisies on top of the stone wall were admired. The town nameplate should be repainted and the speed limit sign was quite faded. Generally in terms of signage the standard could have been better. Directional signs outside the Church of Ireland near to the road to the round tower looked quite grubby and needed to be painted.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Killala is a most attractive busy town with a wealth of fine historical heritage and much to offer the visitor. Congratulations on an excellent first year's entry.