

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KNOCK**  
County : **MAYO**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	20
The Built Environment	40	20	22
Landscaping	40	20	15
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	18
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	17	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>165</b>

## **Knock, County Mayo**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Many thanks for your completed application form and most professional map both of which were very useful on the day. Do ensure that you put together a three to five year work plan for the town. This need only be a two or three page programme, outlining your plans for future development and setting them against a timeframe for their implementation. It would be a useful document for both the adjudicator and yourselves in order to set achievable targets. It will also help you to see the progress Knock has made over time

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The busy town of Knock could have looked better in terms of this aspect of the competition on the day. The Community Centre was in need of a fresh coat of paint and some staining was evident to both the Folk Museum and the Chapel of Reconciliation. The school and grounds were fine and the Garda Station looked most fresh in a blue and cream colour. The railings to the church at its junction with Main Street should be painted up before next year's competition. In general the commercial properties of the town could have been presented to a higher standard on the day - many looked quite grubby and in need of painting. A number of buildings looked quite stained and do ensure not to neglect gable walls, as these are quite apparent as one travels along the main street. In contrast, Spar/Post Office was very bright and cheerful, the Conservatory Restaurant looked very fresh in yellow and Burke's Bar was very fresh in pink. There seems to be a great local interest in hand painted signage such as that to the restaurant and religious gifts shop in a deep red colour on Main Street. There is a profusion of curved canopies, which should be replaced with more traditional fabric awnings. In particular those to first floor level windows look particularly unfortunate.

### **LANDSCAPING**

There is much scope in this category of the competition for development of commercial forecourt/parking areas. Although in a number of cases trees have been planted quite a lot of forecourt area appear quite bare. The attractive garden behind the shopping arcade was beautifully maintained and the garden containing the statue of Arch Deacon Cavanagh on its limestone base is an unusual combination of stone, gravel and soft green landscaping. The landscaping to the complex of churches is quite magnificent, of particular note being the zig zag hedge between the basilica, the Chapel of Reconciliation and the church itself. A cheerful display of lupins and the stream area were both admired. However, a number of benches were missing their horizontal timber

lathes.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

This is an aspect of the competition that you would appear to need to give more attention. Knock is fortunate in terms of its wealth of mature gardens and grounds. You should consult your Tidy Town's Handbook where you will find details of relevant contact organisations and hints for the progression of this category.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The standard of litter control on the day was generally good. Main Street, despite its large numbers of visitors, appeared quite litter free. However, quite a lot of papers were gathered in the flowerbed adjacent to the parking area on the Kiltimagh Road. One or two papers and a tin can were spotted in a landscaped area surrounding Arch Deacon Cavanagh's statue. And a number of papers were also evident to the bases of boundary walls along this road.

## **TIDINESS**

As mentioned previously in this report a number of buildings of the town looked quite neglected and grubby on adjudication day. Do ensure that building materials are removed once construction work is complete-a number of concrete copings appear to have been abandoned on the Kiltimagh Road. Do remember to paint the tin roofs to out-buildings in a traditional red or green colour. Some unfortunate out-buildings adjacent to St. Paul's Craft Shop appeared quite stained and unattractive outbuildings to the rear of premises on Main Street were quite visible from the Kiltimagh Road and would benefit from a fresh coat of paint.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The standard in this category of the competition was very good on the day. St. Michael's Guesthouse was very bright in yellow and an attractive bright blue house on Main Street was admired. There are a large number of well maintained B&B's on the Claremorris Road. A possibly empty house on the Kiltimagh Road looked in need of a fresh coat of paint and its garden was quite overgrown. The boundary walls to the entrance of St. Thomas's Crescent appeared in need of some attention as they were quite stained, although the adjacent planted stone beds were admired. The pansies and sweet williams adjacent to the white bungalow with its marvellous garden and creeper clad garage near the roundabout sign on the Kiltimagh Road looked quite magnificent.

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

Along the Charlestown Road the new ash trees are coming along nicely, although the verges appeared quite overgrown and weeds were apparent to the base of a boundary wall along this stretch. Indeed, the metal town nameplate sign was virtually obscured by overgrowth. Along the Claremorris Road there were relatively new trees, but weeds were apparent to their bases as one approached the town. A concrete post fence should be repainted at Eskerymorilly as it appeared quite flaky. This road was also quite overgrown although the wild daisies were admired. The road to the school was very well maintained. Generally street furniture such as phone boxes were in good condition, although metal nameplate signs could have been washed and repainted. The attractive stone village and townland nameplates were very much admired. Do try strike a balance between over-manicured verges and ones that looks quite wild and neglected thus achieving a natural appearance to your approach roads.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The busy village of Knock is certainly a most interesting one for the visitor. Do concentrate on presentation of buildings for next year's competition.