

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **LOUISBURGH**  
County : **MAYO**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	--
The Built Environment	40	25	--
Landscaping	40	21	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	--
Litter Control	40	25	--
Tidiness	20	10	--
Residential Areas	30	17	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	--
General Impression	10	7	--
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>--</b>

## **Louisburgh, County Mayo**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Louisburgh is welcome back to the competition after a seven year absence. Your five year plan in chart form was most comprehensive and very easy to read giving the opportunity to see your progress at a glance. Your plans in relation to the Granuaile Centre are eagerly awaited, good luck with your funding endeavours. Although the adjudicator appreciates that the bridge will be replaced in the next five years perhaps it could be painted beforehand as at the moment it looks most neglected. Reference was made by the adjudicator in your 1993 Tidy Towns Report that you needed to develop a more comprehensive approach to the competition – this you seem to have done! Good luck with your future efforts.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The standard in this category was somewhat inconsistent – the general impression given as one drove through, was of a number of buildings in need of attention. However, many of the commercial and public premises were well maintained. The Weir House and Restaurant was admired – it looked very fresh and had some colourful displays outside. R. Lyons is an attractive traditional front and DeBurca's was admired for its traditional plaster lettering. P. Morrison's, as mentioned in your submission, is in very bad condition – it would be marvellous if it could be restored to its former glory as it seems to retain quite a number of its original features. Currently however it is in very bad condition. The Derrylahan Bar was very fresh as was the Credit Union in red and Durcan's Butchers. The River Cafe looked quite charming with its profusion of colourful window boxes and pots filled with flowers. The Fire Station doors and lettering could be painted before next year's competition as it looked quite faded and pink! Good luck with your endeavours in relation to the Granuaile Centre – weeds were evident to the gutter and it sported some rusty gates. The white vernacular style Sweeney's Funeral Home was admired. Gaffney's restoration of its traditional front in lime green and pink is to be commended. The extremely long facade of McNamara's was very fresh. The convent looked well cared for, perhaps it could benefit from some landscaping. The Garda Station looked fine, however, some staining was evident beneath a metal bracket on the facade and the boundary wall was quite cracked. The roses to the front garden were admired. The Pastoral Centre was also quite fresh although weeds were apparent to the base of the boundary wall. Major work seemed to be taking place to the church and presumably this will extend to the forecourt / car park area which was quite pot holed.

## **LANDSCAPING**

The abundance of permanent planting as one approached from Westport was admired as were those at Leenane Crossroads. Some of the commercial premises sported some attractive displays such as the window boxes to Sweeney's. New trees had been planted to the side and rear of the National School and were coming along nicely. The attractive planted bed on the Bunowen Road was also admired and the grotto was in good condition. The Scott's Island / Riverside area is most attractive with neatly cut grass and stone channelled stream area. Perhaps more scope is possible in this aspect of the competition in relation to public spaces and grounds of buildings etc.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The identification of native wildlife species on Scots Island is to be commended although the prominently located signage had obviously yet to be instated. Leaping fish were apparent at the weir!

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The village gave a generally litter free appearance on the day. However, closer inspection revealed a few outbreaks on the Westport Road, by the Pastoral Centre on the Bunowen Road and the odd paper along Main Street. More was evident opposite the building site on the Bunowen Road and to the (amphitheatre) formed by vertical timbers at the Riverside Park. Good luck with your endeavours regarding additional litter bins from the local authority. Your organised litter picking is obviously paying off.

## **TIDINESS**

The standard in this category of the competition is somewhat inconsistent. Although the village gives a generally neat and ordered appearance there were some problem areas. Some weeding was necessary to kerbsides on Main Street and the few remaining projecting plastic signs should be removed and replaced with more traditional timber ones. There is an abundance of hoarding giving a cluttered appearance to approach roads especially at Leenane crossroads. A derelict cottage and shed beyond the funeral home created a bad impression as did a shed and unattractive boundary wall the Granuaile Centre – a planning application notice had been erected in this location so hopefully plans are in order for this site. The garage with the stepped gable is an attractive old feature and would benefit even from a fresh coat of paint. Harney's garage was also in need of a fresh coat of paint. The unfortunate stained buildings and flaky gas tank adjacent to the park contrasted sharply with the otherwise fine presentation of this area. The rear of some tin roofed sheds beyond the bridge was also quite obvious from this location. Do remember to screen unsightly yard areas from public view.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

One or two drab houses in the town centre could have done with a fresh coat of paint. The holiday cottages are generally maintained to a high standard, in particular Louisburgh Holiday Cottages with its magnificently maintained grounds where a lot of work was underway on the day. However, weeds were apparent to the base of its boundary wall. More construction work of houses was evident further along this road. Tuirling's Estate with its freshly painted old plough located on its landscaped area was admired. And Crannog's on the Bunowen Road seemed to be progressing well.

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

The standard in this aspect of the competition could be improved upon. An abundance of hoardings was evident on the Westport Road. Although the verges had been cut, the dead grass had yet to be removed. The relatively new trees were coming along nicely. On the Leenane Road, although the display of buttercups was admired, the yield sign was quite grubby and the road generally appeared quite overgrown. Do try to achieve a natural appearance but do not let the approach roads look completely wild and neglected. The road to the ferry was in good condition and the adjacent yellow bog irises were admired. The verges on this road were unfortunately also overgrown. Bog irises were evident on the road to Carramore Beach-the wild roses in the hedgerows were admired as was the blackthorn. Fuchsia and montbretia were evident to the road beyond the Granuaile Centre. However, the speed limit sign on this side of the village was quite rusty and the yield sign quite grubby.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The adjudicator enjoyed a return to Louisburgh after many years. You appear to have put together a sensible and logical plan for the village's future. Good luck with your endeavours.