

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **MURRISK**  
County : **MAYO**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	32
The Built Environment	40	23	19
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	8	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>195</b>

## **Murrisk, County Mayo**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Murrisk Development Association shows an obvious pride in its village and enthusiasm for its work. Your co-operative work with Westport Tidy Towns Committee in relation to tidying up the stretch of road between the two centres is one to be highly commended. Many thanks for your very organised submission including updating the three to five year work programme. All in all it made a most impressive enclosure to your application.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The few buildings of the village looked well cared for on adjudication day. The restaurant tavern looked very well however, the gable to the white section of the building was quite grubby. The charming single storey post office set in its cottage garden was greatly admired. The newer buildings of the village have been constructed in stone. The new community rooms looked most attractive, the toilets in the car park were well maintained and the Croagh Patrick Information Centre is an attractive modern interpretation of a vernacular building in timber and stone. Campbell's is a quaint traditional shop front with, commendably, its original windows intact – it could do with a fresh coat of paint before next year's competition. Murrisk Abbey, graveyard and surroundings were extremely well maintained. The timber rustic style benches affords the visitor magnificent views to the Bay. Piles of earth were evident in this location presumably in relation to ongoing work.

### **LANDSCAPING**

This is an aspect of the competition in which you show an obvious pride. The National Famine Memorial is very simply presented - the grass neatly cut immediately surrounding it, and longer further away. The simple bridge with its limestone coping and modern metal upstands was also admired. It is a most unobtrusive piece of landscaping. The landscaped area between the road and the monument had yet to come into its full glory on adjudication day. The bank of wild flowers adjacent to the Spring Well looked quite magnificent. The flower-filled boats adjacent to the main road and on the road to Murrisk Pier were admired. The car park area was well landscaped to both side of its boundary wall and the Marion Shrine had been freshly painted. In terms of these planted beds, perhaps you could consider the removal of the fencing surrounding them as it detracts somewhat from their presentation.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Your bird feeding table at the picnic area using a "recycled" tree is an excellent idea as it copes with scraps left behind! The stream along the side road to Croagh Patrick with its overhanging montbretia could perhaps be developed along the lines of that to the main road leading to Murrisk Abbey with its magnificent displays of clover, fuchsia and ferns. A multitudinous variety of butterflies were evident on a sunny adjudication day. The jaunty yellow flag irises adjacent to the Famine Memorial looked magnificent.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Your work in regard to this category in relation to maintaining the road between the village and Westport, as mentioned previously, is to be highly commended. The adjudicator was pleased to note that the County Council had freshly painted the concrete litter bins to the car park and they were quite sparkling. The village was generally free of litter apart from the odd paper and bottle cap in the car park and adjacent to one of the bins in this location. A single paper was evident to the stream area and a few more papers by the bend in the road to the Abbey.

## **TIDINESS**

The village has a very neat ordered appearance. A few weeds were evident at kerbsides and the perspex to the telephone box was quite stained. The sign to the car park and toilets from the road to the interpretative centre appeared to be quite grubby and could have been washed down.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The houses of the village looked well cared for on the day. An attractive rockery garden leading up to a bungalow on the main road was admired as were the wild flowers to another sloping garden. The B&Bs were generally very well maintained including Croagh Patrick with its attractive landscaping at its entrance and Ceann Cúrsa with its pretty garden filled with yellow flag irises. Another sloping garden by the pier area was admired. One negative aspect of this category of the competition was an abandoned house along the roadside which looked quite unfortunate.

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

The Westport Road was extremely well maintained with well cut verges and a wealth of stone walling. Your work in conjunction with Westport Tidy Towns in this has been mentioned. Plastic bags had been placed at strategic points along this road, perhaps in relation to planting? The road to the Abbey was extremely well maintained with wild ferns,

montbretia, fuchsia and overhanging trees which made it something quite special. The road to the cobbled pier area had grass down the centre. The peaceful pier area itself was well maintained apart from a few weeds to the cobblestones.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The busy village of Murrisk situated as it is at the foot of Croagh Patrick looked quite magnificent on a fine summer's day. There is obviously great local pride, as it looked extremely well cared for.