

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **NEWPORT-MAYO**  
County : **MAYO**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	28
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	25	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	16	14
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>187</b>

## **Newport, County Mayo**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The practical help and sponsorship you receive from the locality, your work with Mayo County Council and FÁS are all of great benefit to you – hopefully the latter help will be forthcoming this year. Good luck to the new committee in this regard. The adjudicator was pleased to note that you have plans with Mayo County Council to draw up an architectural plan and from there develop your work programme. Hopefully these will be submitted for next year's competition. Your submission in relation to the short and long term plans for the town are commendable including as they do the weekly clean up, educational campaign with local schools and the involvement of the youth club in relation to street furniture. Unfortunately due to pressures of time, the adjudicator was not able to see the town at night and at full tide but can imagine how magnificent it looks especially given your photographic enclosure.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The standard of most buildings in the town was good on adjudication day. However, there are still a few problem areas. Plastic signs should be replaced with more traditional timber ones. The Post Office looked quite charming with its creeper-clad walls and hanging baskets. The adjudicator was pleased to note the Parochial Hall looking marvellously bright in yellow and white after the remark in last year's report. The damaged signed Joyce's Garage still remains unattended to, however, as does the adjacent church. An unfortunate old warehouse type building visible from the riverside park area to the rear of the main street created a bad impression. The fine neo-Romanesque church with its square bell tower in red sandstone with limestone detailing is a fine building of its type. The Health Centre was quite fresh but perhaps its bare tarmac forecourt area could be softened somewhat. Some of the buildings on Main Street appeared to be empty and neglected and therefore detracted somewhat from the overall presentation. The Fire Station should be painted up before next year's competition as it looked quite faded and pink. There is a wealth of fine stone buildings such as the Guest House, Granary, Post Office, and Angler's Rest. The derelict building in its prominent location at the top of the street mentioned last year is still unfortunate. The school was fine, however, its grounds appear quite bare perhaps some trees could be planted to soften the effect of the grass and tarmac. A possibly abandoned building beside Mace looked quite grubby. The attractive Queen of Martyrs Oratory looked extremely well.

## **LANDSCAPING**

Do encourage commercial companies to develop landscaping schemes. The monument area and adjacent riverside park was well maintained with its attractive flowerbed filled with snapdragons and pinks by the children's playground. The attractive planted area with rhododendrons, behind a stone wall at the Queen of Martyrs Oratory was well maintained. The attractive landscaping of grassy banks and trees by the viaduct looked well. The pedestrian route over the river is most attractive with seating, however, the edges to the grass could be more sharply defined.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Your plans in this regard are commendable, i.e. your conservation plan for the natural environment including all the various habitats within the vicinity and subsequent development of a nature trail. The planting of native hardwoods and proposed woodland walk should also be a fine benefit to the community. The construction of the willow garden is a most interesting one. A crane and other wading birds were evident in the riverside on adjudication day.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The standard in this regard was quite good on the day although the odd paper was evident on the Achill Road, across Muliner Road and along Main Street. A can was also in evidence by the via-duct and quite a few papers were found under the bushes in this location.

## **TIDINESS**

Unfortunate yard / storage areas should be screened from public view, for example that to Walshe's Pub would benefit merely from the erection of a pair of gates. The sign to Joyce's Garage was damaged on the day. Quite a few weeds were evident to curbs on the Achill Road, the Quay Road, the upper Road to Castlebar and the laneway to the Queen of Martyrs Oratory. The buildings along the latter should be painted up as they appeared quite grim.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The standard in this category of the competition was quite good. There are many attractive stone cottages such as that on the Westport Road where work was underway on the day. The two stone cottages on the Achill Road were also admired. One with a magnificent garden of rhododendrons overhanging its stone wall. The attractive charming cottages with window boxes and hanging baskets set below the street leading to St. Patrick's Church were also greatly admired. Indeed there was a colourful floral display to the houses on the Upper Castlebar Road. A fine modern house in stone, glass and plaster on Quay Road was greatly admired. The new apartments on the

Quay at the former seaweed factory site should be a fine development. A derelict house near the Post Office on Meddlcott Street looked unfortunate. However the streets limestone nameplate was admired.

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

Although the verges had been cut back many of the approach roads appeared quite rough in their presentation. The grass on the Westport Road had been cut back roughly but the dead grass had not yet been removed. The verges were of a higher standard closer to town. The Achill Road was quite weedy although the adjacent yellow bog irises were admired. Again the grass had been roughly cut – though the snapdragons at the sign were admired. This road affords the visitor a magnificent view back to the town with the church on the hill. Weeds were also apparent on the Castlebar Road to the stone wall adjacent to the river. The signage in this location needed to be washed. Generally this road was of a higher standard than the previous two. The Crossmolina Road was being cut back on adjudication day. Quay Road appeared to be quite overgrown. In relation to street furniture the phone boxes were in good condition but the post box on Main Street should be freshened up before next year's competition.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Newport is a most attractive town situated as it is on the banks of the Black Oak River. The attractive raised Main Street leading up to the church is quite charming and unusual.