

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **WESTPORT**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	43
The Built Environment	40	36	35
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	247	245

Westport, County Mayo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Congratulations on your marvellous submission. All the information was extremely clear which makes the adjudicator's job all the easier. One minor point would be that the beautifully drawn maps do not indicate street names on them. You have covered all aspects of the town's presentation and carefully considered its future development. The pedestrian permeability project is a marvellous idea although Distillery apartments seemed to be inaccessible to the public (the gates were locked) on adjudication day. The archway at Jesters Courtyard was quite flaky both externally and internally. However, as it had just been completed perhaps this work had yet to be completed. It makes for a very pleasant sequence of spaces through the town.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The main streets of the town were well cared for and quite colourful. An unfortunate building beside the entrance to the leisure park looked quite run down on James Street. On Bridge Street the gable of a building as it stepped up the hillside was cracked and quite grubby. There are some attractive traditional shopfronts in the town, as well as some marvellous modern ones such as Strands. The hotels were all well cared for-in particular, the grounds to Westport Woods on the Louisburgh Road with its fine mature trees was greatly admired. The thatched Shebeen Pub and Restaurant on the same road looked very fresh in yellow. All of the buildings on the Octagon were presented to a high standard and the buildings along the mall looked fine. The supermarket in the old church on the Castlebar Road is a very successful development.

LANDSCAPING

Planted beds along approach roads were well cared for on the day. In particular, an attractive length of planting along the Louisburgh Road was admired as was the incidental space of jaunty snapdragons opposite. The attractive limestone bollards at Boffin Street with their combination of matt and polished stone decorated with scenes relating to the locality were greatly admired. The area around the Quay has developed extremely well in the last year with its new copper lamp standards and children's playground. The permanent planting by the Knockranny House Hotel with its beautifully cut verges, relatively new trees and colourful flower beds was admired as was that to the top of the steeply sloping bank above the stone wall on the Ballinrobe Road. A pretty private courtyard at Barrack Yard looked magnificent with its colourful

floral displays.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The North Woods project is certainly a worthwhile one – being of an historical / cultural significance as well as wildlife (given that it is formed from part of Westport House demesne).

LITTER CONTROL

Very little litter was evident on first impressions. Closer inspection revealed the town to be remarkably free of litter on the day. Exceptions were quite a few papers along Station Road. Another outbreak was evident in the water by the bridge at Distillery Apartments and a few more scattered along the Fair Green at the top of the Mall. Generally the standard was very good on adjudication day, so your hard work is paying off!

TIDINESS

The town generally had a neat appearance on adjudication day, however, there were one or two problem areas. The rear of buildings near the leisure centre looked quite unfortunate from this location. A green tin shed at the quay should be repainted. A shabby two storey building on the Newport Road looked unfortunate. Hoardings should be discouraged, two on Castlebar Street looked particularly unfortunate as did a torn hoarding by the railway bridge. The tree guards on the Octagon should be repainted before next year's competition. Graffiti was largely absent from the town apart from some to outbuildings behind Durkin's courtyard and the church. Power hosing was taking place to the clock on the day.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is a high standard of housing within the town and suburbs. Some of the gable walls to Pierce Terrace looked quite unfortunate. B&B's along Quay Road were generally well maintained. The colourful vernacular style houses set back from Boffin Street were greatly admired as were the stone Westport Harbour townhouses. The entrance to the King's Hill Estate with its stone nameplate looked extremely well maintained. The houses to Father Angelus Park were beautifully displaying a central grassy green space with freshly painted concrete benches and colourful floral tributes at the entrance. The houses along Altamont Street were not as well maintained as the rest of the town. Some single storey, beautifully landscaped housing stepping from off Mill Street was greatly admired.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

In terms of street furniture the telephone box by the clock tower will need painting before next year's competition. The

Louisburgh Road was well maintained many hoardings were evident. It was quite overgrown by the "Welcome to Westport" sign on this road. The Newport Road is an attractive approach to the town with its overhanging ash trees and fine view up James Street to the monument and beyond. It appeared quite overgrown on the day by the nameplate sign and the verges could have been cut back more successfully. Some weeds were evident at the curbsides on the Dublin / Castlebar Road although this long lead into the town was generally well maintained. The attractive 1930's ESB sub-station with its glass block on this road is quite charming. Along the Ballinrobe Road, the station and its vicinity were fine, the station itself sported some jaunty window boxes and hanging baskets. The landscaping along this road was also admired.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The busy town of Westport looked well cared for despite a rainy adjudication day. Westport Tidy Towns Committee certainly have made great efforts in all categories of its town's presentation.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (06/08/00)

The high standards of paving, lighting and street furniture add character to Westport. While it is true that this adjudication took place on probably one of the busiest Sunday afternoon's of the year the litter control seems to be in difficulty. Litterbins were overflowing at the Octagon and there was a noticeable amount of litter on streets. The banklink machine receipt deposit box was overflowing and causing litter. A special plan to deal with busy weekends is needed. The pedestrian walk from the Distillery apartments to the leisure centre was taken as suggested in the submission. While this was an interesting route and it is always pleasant to have routes that avoid the streets, the following observations were made on route: At the entry point the gate which would give access to wheelchairs and child buggies was locked. The kerbs at the top of the Mall were not dished. On entering the carpark by the new bus shelter there is no dedicated walking strip marked and one competes with cars for access. The outlet to Bridge Street is met with a loading bay (in which a van was parked); A yellow box would help and provision for crossing the street. Again no provision for wheelchair accesses or dedicated crossing at street. The Town Park behind the Leisure Centre is developing and has been recently grass seeded. There are a number of large old trees around Westport – such as Ash and Sycamore. These were planted by previous generations that could never have hoped to see them to maturity. It is important now to plant trees of a similar kind for the next few generations. There are many opportunities for planting such trees. . The ornamental "garden" trees used so frequently will not have the same effect as the "real" trees. A pedestrian bridge from the leisure centre to the other side of the river

would be an interesting project. At the Octagon the tables and chairs outside both Geraghtys and Dunnings look very attractive but the disorganised arrangement is disruptive to pedestrians, especially those with young children and the visually and physically disabled. The railway station is a delight with very clean and tidy approach and platforms and a lovely water feature and containerised plantings.