

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ATHLEAGUE**
County : **ROSCOMMON**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	21	21
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	21	20
Tidiness	20	8	8
Residential Areas	30	17	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	169	165

Athleague, Co.Roscommon

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The tourism potential for Athleague is enormous in particular in the areas of Angling and Walking Holidays. On the day the adjudicator was present, there was a sheep sale on in the Mart and this added to the sense of atmosphere in the town. There are quite a lot of new houses being built and when the lawns, boundary walls and driveways are completed will enhance the overall appearance of the town. The Suck Valley Developmental Centre is well stocked with very useful information as well as a nice coffee shop.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

I noted that the landscaping of the Angling Centre was completed. The Suck Valley Development Centre should play an important role in co-ordinating and encouraging new business ideas which will be most beneficial to the area. As mentioned in last year's report there are still some derelict buildings in particular the old building and pumps on the corner (M.Finneran). The two houses on either side of the old coach house and Healys at the other end of the town would benefit from being painted. Town & Country Interiors looks well.

LANDSCAPING

The grass verges on the approach need to be trimmed as do the edges of the footpaths. The boundary walls also need to be weeded. The new trees look nice and the borders around Tiernans Hall were being painted while I was there. The stone wall and the entrance to the new housing development on the Athlone Road also looks good. The Bridge House had a very attractive display of flowers. The bungalows on the left all looked good. The lawns of the bungalow nearest the town with the "For Sale" sign needed to be mown.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The River Suck and its surrounding area would be the most obvious place to develop a wildlife project i.e. map/sign detailing species of fish, birds and other wildlife native to this area. This information would appeal greatly to walkers on the Suck ValleyWay and also to visiting anglers from abroad.

LITTER CONTROL

Many people have made a great effort to keep their areas litter free. I didn't notice the presence of many litter bins. One of the bins I came across in the centre of town was overflowing.

TIDINESS

The gas bottle holder at the Statoil Garage needs to be painted and there were also some weeds in this area. The grass verges in most areas needed to be trimmed and there were a lot of weeds around kerbs and road signs. The grass in the graveyard behind the new Development Centre was overgrown and the house on the left as you come in the Creggs Road looks very good but there is a very unsightly derelict house beside it. The black plastic oil tank in the car park at the graveyard needs to be shielded from view. The green area over the bridge needs to be cut. The Square was left in a very untidy state by contractors or others with building materials lying around.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is still room for improvement in this area. The new dormer house will look nice when re-surfacing is completed along the road. There are many beautiful flower beds and well kept lawns in evidence. Watch out for weeds along the usual boundary walls and kerbs.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

As mentioned in last year's report, there is still some work to be done on the grass verges on all roads leading into the town. The graveyards are overgrown. There are pot holes outside the petrol station. The footpath across from the Church needs attention. The flower beds all around the town look healthy. Abandoned machinery is visible from the road. The bridge, old church and graveyard have lovely stonework which should be restored.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Athleague has all the ingredients to make it a most attractive town. Concentrate on bringing the river more into the limelight. Try to encourage the owners of derelict or unsightly buildings to clean them up. With the development office in place, you should consider a three year plan for developing the potential of the River Suck to benefit your town to a greater degree. Keep up the good work.