

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **COLLOONEY**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	25
The Built Environment	40	19	19
Landscaping	40	22	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	20	20
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	16	13
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	4	4
TOTAL MARK	300	154	145

Collooney, County Sligo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed questionnaire, Map, Plan and supporting material. Your "Conceptual Masterplan" outlines some impressive plans for the town which would certainly enhance the whole area. The committees own five year plan outlines some achievable targets and we wish you every success with its implementation. Using the report headings may also help focus your plan as you amend and develop it further. Your co-operation with local bodies, schools and resident associations is encouraging.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Many of the commercial and private premises in the town were well maintained and presented on the day of adjudication. All the churches and schools looked well. St Paul's school had some lovely trees and the fine old building opposite could benefit from its grass being tided a little. Mary Immaculate school looked particularly cheerful in its focal position on the corner. The Health Centre, The Tasty Burger and Garda Barracks were tidily presented. Mc Mahons Yard looks very untidy. The brightly painted T Cullen's, and Johnny Macs Pub also caught the eye as did the Owenmore Inn with attractive flower features.

LANDSCAPING

The individual efforts of some business and homeowners in the village were noted with some lovely window boxes at some premises and an attractive flower bed noted again outside the Garage. It is unfortunate to note that your street furniture was vandalised, it appears also that the stone from the flower bed in front of the Methodist Church seems to be scattered around the area. The flower bed past the Garda station caught the eye as did the colourful murals at Mc Canns Bar. The grass in front of the fine stone walls at the Park needs to be tided and the Teeling Monument still looks un-cared for. The Grotto in its focal position on the corner, looks very well, as did the stone flower bed at the Church opposite. Some lovely new landscaping was noted in the area behind the Tennis Courts and this whole area will look well on completion. Some lovely flower features were noted at Mary immaculate and St. Paul's School. There still remains many other opportunities for appropriate landscaping throughout the town and on the approach roads. Also ensure that all your new trees are properly supported and protected.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

All of last years comments still apply in this section. The committee have an important role to play in preserving and suitably enhancing all the natural habitats within the town. While the river is the first and obvious choice, there are still further opportunities including the park with its trees and grass areas or the school grounds. Perhaps a possible nature trail incorporating some open green and meadow areas, riverbanks or water features could be an idea. Trees and hedgerows, Bat Boxes, wild flower meadow and nesting sites also provide additional habitats and opportunities. Work with a local wildlife expert and relevant local bodies to develop this further, and consider also, involving the local schools.

LITTER CONTROL

There was some litter evident in the town square and on some of the approach roads. A Litter Awareness project, general community clean up days and try to get the whole community, business's and the schools involved in your Litter Campaign, all could help and are recognised in this section of the competition. Bins were evident and were well presented and maintained. Again the committee must remain vigilant in this very important area.

TIDINESS

Once again some of the approach roads, open areas, and some untidy individual premises still tend to detract from the overall impression of the town. The Committees states that development work will commence on some of the derelict sites and this will certainly contribute to the overall impact. You have started to work on the bridges around the Coollany and Sligo Road Junction and this should enhance these fine stone features. The James Mc Mahon premises and area behind the Inishfree Crystal Factory gives a poor impression of the town as you pass over the bridge. Some business premises in the town need to refresh their presentation and the railings outside Mary Immaculate school could also be repainted. The area around the Cash & Carry and Sub-station on the Ballygawley Road remains untidy. Some open spaces, back areas, boundary walls in some areas of the town, all need attention.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Once again many of the individual homes in the town, in the housing developments and on the approach roads were nicely presented and well maintained with attractive gardens and lovely flowers and tidy lawns hedges and boundary areas. Once again these homes highlight the houses that need a little work to improve their presentation. There are some trees in Rowan Tree that need attention. Kiernan Ave. is undergoing great change for the better. The new trees look well but need better support, the kerbs also

need some repair, but the open areas and estate in general will look very well when completed. The new name stone is particularly impressive and is indeed the nicest one this adjudicator has seen, well done to those responsible. A new housing development behind Chestnut B&B also looked very well, tidily finished with some attractive landscaping and open areas.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There is still a mixed standard of maintenance and presentation of the roads and footpaths throughout the town. On the Baleygawley Road, the signs need to be cleaned and there appeared to be some inconsistent grass verge cutting, the tidy verges being maintained by an individual property owner. However, the new footpaths and grass verges were also noted. The graveyard appeared tidy, but the car park in the Teeling Centre needs some attention. Some new footpaths were under construction in the residential area opposite St. Joseph's school and hopefully these will continue throughout this area. Some weeds at the kerbs also need to be removed in this area. The road surface on the way to Rowan Tree gardens is also very poor. The old Galway road appeared tidy but it also needs work on its footpaths and the graffiti spray still remains on the sign on this road. Some of the road signs in the town also need to be repainted. A nice stone wall and gate was noted on the Ballisodare Road.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Your small committee is to be admired for their continued commitment and enthusiasm for their town. As stated last year, you should try to involve greater participation of the community, businesses and organisations within the town to help with the work, fund-raising and ideas to realise the full potential of the town.