

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **AGLISH VILLAGE**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	19
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	221	215

Aglish, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your Development Plan is impressive, and provides much interesting environmental as well as sociological information. What is missing from it is a timescale showing what projects will be tackled in which of the five years, with a target year for completion of each project. You will find that by setting yourself such deadlines you will encourage participants to undertake work assiduously, rather than allowing projects to go 'on the long finger'. Thank you for your map, on which you have clearly marked sites which should be inspected, and thank you too for your photographs.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church was still in need of a coat of paint on the date of adjudication, but its boundary was very smart; it is recommended that the same colour be used for both. The School and the Garda station were well presented, as was the Glanbia depot. All the business premises, including the Post Office, were smartly turned out. The Muintir na Tire Hall looked extremely fine in its new green paint. Inevitably, in comparison with the majority of the buildings, a few looked rather drab, among them the Glebe Hall and a building near the bridge. Last year's comment on the garage still applies. Whitewashing here and there was admired.

LANDSCAPING

Trim grassed spaces and flowerbeds, especially at road intersections, added brightness: these are the things which visitors immediately note with pleasure. Mature and younger trees are well looked after. When grass is mown, the cutting should be removed immediately and not allowed to wither on the site.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The riverside improvements, and the clearing and tidying of the graveyard, are considered under this heading (as they are not, strictly speaking, 'Landscaping'). Cleaning and planting at the stream has given a real sense of liveliness to this once-neglected amenity: congratulations to those who have done the work. The same must be said about the work at the graveyard, which is now a positively eye-catching site in its commanding situation at the centre of the village. This work is also a touching tribute to those who lie under the many interesting headstones. The wild flower patch was favourably noted, here and near the church. Please seek

the advice of the Irish Wildlife Conservancy, as suggested last year.

LITTER CONTROL

The village was virtually litter-free at the time of adjudication, and this is to be commended. Although constant vigilance is required in this area at all times.

TIDINESS

Understandably, with the work in progress on the roads, and building materials in evidence, the village could not be as tidy as one would wish – but the potential is recognised, and it should be possible to give a higher mark next year when projects have been completed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Older houses are kept up with pride by their residents. Several houses on the outskirts have extremely charming gardens. It is good to see neat thatch. A very promising development of stone houses to the north of the church was noted, and this will be looked at more thoroughly next year when the work is finished.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The village renewal scheme promises well. Much roadwork, and pavement laying, was in progress on the date of the visit. What had been completed looked most impressive. It is very good news that as part of the work cables will be undergrounded and new lamp standards erected. Fine old stone walls, and handsome palings, were favourably noted. Provided the work continues as expected, there should be an opportunity for additional marks in this section as well, next year.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A village on the verge of rediscovering itself. Considering the initiatives which have recently been taken, the next few years should show important advances. Congratulations to all the community.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (10/08/00)

It was a pleasure to visit Aghish for the purpose of second adjudication. The village continues to be nicely presented. There are some excellent gardens to bungalows and green verges with nice features in the village. More of the stone walls on the approach roads should be revealed to highlight their beauty and some stretches need to be refurbished. An enclosure might be created to the site where the heavy

machinery, e.g. tractors, is being stored just at the outskirts of the village. One or two buildings need to be cleaned and / or whitewashed. The graveyard is a lovely element of the village with its stands of mature Yew trees and others. The Muintir na Tire Eaglais premises looks very well. The roof of Geraldines GAA hall may need attention before next year's competition. The four acre site of prime development land for sale in the centre of the village no doubt will be developed for housing or commercial and it is sincerely hoped that the design and scale will be sensitive to the character and overall ambience of Aghlish.