

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LOCH GOWNA**
County : **CAVAN**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	40	28	29
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	229	230

Loch Gowna, Co.Cavan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

No details of plan in file but the Loch Gowna Tidy Towns Committee clearly has an excellent focus. The village can be improved. Some dereliction needs to be addressed and improvement in more sympathetic 'village ambience' public lighting would be a positive ambition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Village is very tidy and generally looks well. The Pikers Lodge is a profusion of hanging flowers and its bright front complemented by Fitzpatrick's Tavern, again with flowers and uncertain cut stone facade. The corner house on opposite side looks well with its floral displays as does Sloans Post Office. At time of adjudication Sloans was being repainted. Its adjoining house has a fine display of potted and hanging flowers. The School looks very well and as last year, displays a wonderful collection of children's posters promoting tidy towns. Midland Health board building looks fine. On the Cavan Road, Whites Pub presents a red bricked front with plastic windows. The old Whites Grocery shop is in a state of disrepair with its boarded up window. Two houses on the main street are badly maintained and in one, windows need replacing. Plastic windows, unfortunately, are on the increase.

LANDSCAPING

The approach from the Granard side has an attractive roadside amenity to introduce the village. Nice houses on the left and a run of tin roofed sheds camouflaged by ivy. Village footpath and walls all nicely presented and there are quite a number of hanging flower baskets. Some heavy wirescape cables. The street lighting is the old timber poles with metal extension fittings. These are really town or city style and not in keeping with village street furniture.

The village green looks well with nice array of plants and flowers. A feature is the floral display in a boat which rests on a concrete area which has an amount of dead weed which needs to be removed. The surface is somewhat stressed. There is a nice array of shrubs, particularly up in the right hand corner where every effort is being made to screen the out houses next door.

The exterior wall which extends towards the school has a nice array of flowers, shrubs, and ivy growing up the wall. In addition, there is an attractive shrubbery in the school garden. 'Use your bins and recycle your tins' is an excellent slogan. Opposite the school is a cut stone wall and lamppost with hanging basket.

Approaching from the Church Lake side the hedges have been trimmed and the verges adjoining the village cut. There are two small open 'garden' features left and right bordered by post and chain. These are colourful and well maintained with planter around lamppost. To the left is a cut hedge on top of stone wall. The water pump could be a feature.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There is a fine brick wall which extends along the front of the amenity park with its hand ball allies, lawns and picnic tables, Tennis court and a boat flower bed lying against the hand ball ally wall. New trees line the inside of the wall and surrounding the area is a series of hedgerows and mature trees.

The public notice maps displayed with flowers beneath at the crossroads are excellent. They give a full directional guide to local activities, walks, bird sanctuary, historic interests and angling

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control programme was working well with little evidence of a litter problem.

TIDINESS

The garden fronting the house beside Whites XL Store is badly maintained. The Arva Road village entrance could be tidied with the removal of pipes from outside a new house to the right and improved screening of the Aeroboard factory to the left

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential housing development surrounding Loch Gowna is very attractive. All are detached with large gardens and all well maintained. Noted particularly was housing overlooking Church lake.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There is good sign posting in Loch Gowna particularly for walks and lake angling.

Out past St. Brigids Hall the Church and its small graveyard is well presented with nice lawns and clean litter free car park. The private house beside the church has mature and well presented garden. There is a new wall to left which leads to the main grave yard to right which is tidy and well presented. On the Longford Road, the Church of Ireland Church looks very well with mature and well kept grounds. The Foamlight factory and offices is very well presented with cut lawns and roadside fencing. The GAA football ground car park was undergoing new gate installation and was showing signs of the associated building works

At the Arva Road junction is a nice bungalow with flowered garden. There is some screening work here and in time will grow to provide the necessary screen. Telephone kiosk with its nearby floral bed looks fine.

The main road surface from the Granard end is very good, and the houses along the main street colourfully presented.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Loch Gowna is a quiet but attractive village which by and large presents well. Its strength lies in the co-operative contribution made by its community rather than individually dominant built structure. There is a wonderful display of hanging and window box flowers which add colour to its streets and buildings. Well done.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (01/08/01)

The floral decorations were looking exceptionally good on second adjudication day – congratulations to all those who contribute to this finery. A mark deducted by the first adjudicator under ‘Tidiness’ was restored, because of improvements made in the interim – however, it could be said that the hedge-clipping was somewhat severe this year, branches being torn rather than cut. On your map, please name particular spots which you think should be looked at – the Fair Green, for instance. Undergrounding of cables does not seem to have been completed. (The map seems to be considerably out of date, as it shows the four houses on the corners of the crossroads as they used to be and should be; the design of the village would be immensely improved if this corner were rebuilt to match; the splendid planting in the vacant lot is truly pleasing, but the attractive symmetry of the village has been lost. This is merely a comment, not a part of the marking.)