

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **AHASCRAUGH**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	21	23
Landscaping	40	28	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	11
Litter Control	40	20	18
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	16	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	165	162

Ahascragh, County Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The committee of twelve appears to be very active within Ahascragh and it is good to see the involvement of teenagers and younger children in the promotion of litter awareness – this work will lead to a more attractive place to live in and to visit. In particular, the slogans on the windows in the national schools were excellent. The phased planting of flowers and shrubs is softening the concrete look and visually enhancing the open spaces of the village. The co-operation of FAS has added some fine stone features to the environment – in particular the walls near the graveyard are remarkably attractive.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Derelict buildings and sites continue to be the main difficulty that is adversely affecting the visual attractiveness of the village. The Post Office was admired with its new phone box and the flower arrangements at Cahill's looked very well. Both were photographed for awards. The spire of the Church appeared to be peeling, as did one of the pillars. The National School looked very cheerful and fresh in comparison to the building next door that had a FAS sign on the door. St Catherine's Church looked beautiful – a tranquil oasis in shade with its well maintained black gates.

LANDSCAPING

The small green area with roses and seating is a gem of the village and perhaps something similar could be repeated in the area in front of the wall and foot path which is near completion over near the graveyard which is presently covered in mounds of clay and building rubble. Most verges appeared to be well maintained and the trees which have been planted are beginning to mature and will be a pleasant visual element. More flower baskets in and around the commercial properties and domestic dwellings of the village would add a further "lift" to the area.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The fingerpost signage at the junction in the village indicates the nature walk and picnic area on Church avenue. However, the walk and picnic area is not that easy to find for a stranger once on Church Avenue itself. A further fingerpost sign on the avenue is advised.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control appears to have improved and the committee should strive to maintain pressure in this area. Some litter was visible on the Ballinasloe side at the grass verges and some had accumulated under the benches at the grotto. A small bag of sand with a concrete block on top was also in front of the grotto. The litterbin outside De Courcsey's pub

was overflowing. A phased removal of litterbins from poles and positioning them at ground level may result in better usage.

TIDINESS

General tidiness of the village was good apart from the derelict sites that are very unsightly and detract from the overall streetscape. In particular, perhaps the site beside Brennan's garage might be screened off to improve the character of the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There appears to be an ongoing development of new houses that look well. Most houses and gardens and their boundary walls were well maintained.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The "Failte" signs on each approach road with their "wishing well" type covers are features of merit in the village and create a good impression on arrival. All verges appeared to be adequately trimmed on the day of inspection. Houses in back areas continue to be in various states of repair.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ahascragh is improving and the input of voluntary effort is evident so keep up the good work! The arrival of your new sweeper when purchased should assist with the litter control aspect of the work. A system for emptying the litterbins on a regular basis would also help litter control. As indicated, it is hope that the primary difficulty of derelict buildings will rectify itself with time and enthusiasm.