

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ATHENRY**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	27	25
Tidiness	20	15	16
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	21
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	204	199

Athenry, County Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is heartening to see a works schedule covering all the areas which could contribute to a brighter, better town. Being a heritage town, there are more areas of historic importance to be cared for and this sets a challenge for your committee. Seeking the help of the community, private and business, helps to give them ownership of the project.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Castle takes pride of place in the town. Also memorable are the North Tower, the Heritage Centre and Presentation School.

LANDSCAPING

Great displays of flowers especially at the Fields Bar. The Millennium Corner and other locations which are too numerous to name play their part in the overall effect. The flower bed beside the Library had not been tended for some time, despite its claim to be "Maintained by the Flower Shop".

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Athenry is in an excellent position to offer walking tours which could take in water, wildlife and natural amenities. These could be self-guided tours with the aid of a well designed brochure.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter bins were in good supply throughout the town each with its urgent message to keep Athenry litter free. Despite this there was litter present in small quantities in the streets. This could be due to individuals placing a full plastic bag in the bin, leaving no room for smaller items. The open recycling area near the school entrance could not cope with demand for its services and so bags of used clothing were left at the base of the container. More frequent collections or greater capacity are called for.

TIDINESS

There is an area between the river and the Castle which is planted with trees and allowed to grow as nature intended. One of the trees had been vandalised and along the riverside path litter was obvious. The river itself needs a clean up with the removal of branches from the bridge mouth and other debris around the weir.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Between the Castle and a private house is a small, untended area which had been used to dump tree branches. If ownership can be established this should cease, as it reflects badly on first impressions to the Castle

entrance. In general residential areas were well kept. What we assume to be Maddens derelict house is boarded up and painted. It is in a very noticeable position at a junction and cannot be ignored.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Considerable road works are in progress on the continuation of Chapel Lane. Houses and gardens on many of the approach roads were well tended with the benefit of mature trees surrounding them.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Athenry is a town with a complex arrangement of streets. The supplied copy of the O.S. map goes into detail showing almost every building in town. For the purpose of adjudication and to observe time limitations, I would suggest a simpler version making it easier to find and focus on the principal areas of interest. It is a busy town with narrow, medieval streets which give it a special character. Enhancing this medieval quality could be a worthwhile project, your committee should seek expert help in this case.