

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LOUGHANAVALLY**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 27-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	23
The Built Environment	40	20	19
Landscaping	40	21	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	20	20
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	15	14
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	146	143

Loughnavally, Co. Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Loughnavally is an attractive village and great work has been done to improve its overall appearance. The lay-by area next to the graveyard is a centrally located space which has a lot of potential. It is worth considering a long term development of this area, with landscaping, a green area and benches in mind.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The church, which is central to the village is in excellent condition. The paintwork looks clean and fresh and the railings are being well cared for. William Fox's bar is also in very good condition, as is the beautiful stone building on the opposite corner. Its red shutters and window boxes are extremely pretty. The school building is being well maintained but the grass edges need a little maintenance. There is a certain amount of dereliction within the village but hopefully something can be done to readdress this in the future.

LANDSCAPING

A fantastic effort has been made with flower boxes and flower beds which really add colour to the street and greatly enhance the look of the village. There are beautiful trees along the lay-by next to the graveyard which are now starting to take hold and mature nicely. The flower tubs interspersed between them look very attractive, as do the flower boxes in front of the church which continue along the front of the new house next door. There is also a magnificent tree within the grounds of the church. Special praise is due to William Fox's floral displays which stretch all the way around the corner and are very well maintained.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have encouraged wildlife by allowing natural growth of the hedgerows on the outskirts of the village. This allows wild habitats to flourish and adds to the natural rustic feel of the countryside. You might consider undertaking a wildlife survey of the natural flora and fauna in your area in conjunction with the local school.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter is not a significant problem in Loughnavally. There was some plastic caught in the hedgerow on the Mullingar side and there were odd bits of litter on the street, but overall the village was very clean.

TIDINESS

The graveyard needs some attention. Weed growth is rampant along the paths and kerbs of the graveyard, and bags containing cut grass and weeds should be removed. Weeds should also be dealt with in the lay-by. The pump opposite Fox's bar could be repainted and the buckets should be removed. The hedge along the Mullingar approach road and which continues along the Tullamore road needs to be maintained. It is quite weedy and overgrown at the moment. There is a discarded traffic cone on the road side approach from

Mullingar. Remember to remove cuttings from grass verges.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

In general, the standard of housing is high. There are some lovely houses on the Athlone side of the village with beautifully maintained gardens, hedges and flower boxes. One of the houses on this stretch, has a broken fence which needs to be repaired or replaced. The derelict cottage on the Tullamore road has potential for redevelopment.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads from all sides have well maintained grass verges. The "Loughnavally" sign on the Athlone approach is a little obscured. Perhaps the hedge could be cut back further. I would also recommend the planting of flowers around the base of the signs on all approach roads as it helps to create a good impression. The remains of a sign on the Ballymahon road should be removed.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Loughnavally is very good. The flower boxes and flower pots are very effective in making the village colourful and attractive. Residences for the most part, are very well maintained. I congratulate you on a clean and tidy village.