

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CONNOLLY**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	--
The Built Environment	40	25	--
Landscaping	40	25	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	--
Litter Control	40	30	--
Tidiness	20	14	--
Residential Areas	30	16	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	187	--

Connolly, Co. Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the competition and thank you for your submission. Your first step has now been taken by entering the competition and it is hoped this report will stimulate further activity in your endeavour to improve the appearance of the village. A necessary requirement in making progress is the formulation of a plan. This can be short-term or long term which, ideally, would chart the way forward over the next few years. You should contact Clare County Council and Shannon Development and seek support for a plan. Such a plan should then have the support and commitment of the community. In the absence of a plan for next year you, as a committee, should list out about ten projects that you can tackle yourselves.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Your public buildings are confined to Church, School and Post Office. The school is excellent in presentation. The church forecourt area should be landscaped. This could be done without any loss to car parking space provided the area is well laid out. Tree planting and some shrubbery would enhance this area on this exposed site. Some of the signage on the Post Office would benefit from painting. You have some very attractive stone walls that could be further enhanced by tree planting in the area inside the wall. This would require permission from the landowner, but such permission is usually forthcoming. Stonewalls on their own can be cold in appearance.

LANDSCAPING

You have scored well in this section. The green areas are ideal for rich displays of flower and shrubs. It is best to plant in a permanent way and not to be relying on a flower tub - especially in a rural setting such as Connolly. The grassed area at the Ennis approach needs cutting. You have a long linear village that requires a good deal of care from a small population, so you need to apply your efforts to maximum benefit. The car park opposite O'Boyles is fair, but in need of improved surface dressing. The roads material beside the church should be removed.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your efforts here should be linked with tree and shrub planting. You should provide for winterfeeding or preferably you should seek out an area that could be cultivated for wildlife. We suggest you contact your local I.W.C. person for advice in this matter.

LITTER CONTROL

Well done on a good performance here. You do not seem to have a problem with litter control and bins were well spaced and seemed adequate in numbers.

TIDINESS

Your problems here relate to a few untidy side entrances. The unoccupied house beside the church is in need of attention - ideally restoration. The attractive farm gate opposite the church should be highlighted by painting. The old abandoned white Volvo car on the Inagh approach should be removed - contact Clare County Council.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The rural housing estate is well presented with some very good individual effort. There is some weed growth on the roof of the house facing the road. In general residential areas are well presented and many have well kept front gardens. New housing developments should reflect the rural ethos of the village and avoid ultra modern designs with inappropriate building materials.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road surface throughout the village is very good and the traffic quite busy. You need to define your village for the Competition - usually it is judged between the speed limit signs, which in your case, are outside the village core. You need two fáilte signs on the two principal approaches. These could be ornate and embellished with stone work and some floral display. The Milltown Malbay approach is a little overgrown and needs attention. The rusty corrugated shed on the attractive outhouse on the Ennis approach should be painted for next year.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You have made a good start and the village has potential to become a high scorer in the Competition. For your own sake you need a plan of action. Such a plan will also act as a good discipline for your voluntary efforts. Good luck for 2003!