

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LOUISBURGH**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	37
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	23	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	12	10
Residential Areas	30	20	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	21
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	194	181

Louisburgh, Co. Mayo

OVER ALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for a well laid out submission. Your entry form was complemented by a clearly documented plan addressing each area under which marks are allocated. It was surprising that no photographs were included and I would suggest that next year before and after photos are submitted for projects you wish to highlight. The town map could also be linked to such pictures via numeric or alphabetic codes for illustration purposes. The five year plan was professionally presented overall but was found to be a bit vague in parts. As far as possible, specific time frames should be given for various projects, projected costings may also be useful. Your street by street breakdown indicates your intention to address all areas of the town and is very commendable.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Shop fronts in the town are generally well presented. The Derrylahan is attractive with its gold and black frontage. Regrettably the P. Morrison building is still derelict and as it is a large corner building it stands out even more negatively. The M. Durcan building and Harveys garage remain eye sores. It is a great idea to try and introduce life however seasonal into these disused buildings namely your Christmas scene initiative. Perhaps you could extend these scenes and feature various seasonal images from Easter images to those of Harvest and Halloween. The latter would be very atmospheric in a derelict setting! The National school is well presented and maintained. At the time of adjudication, the garda station looked freshly painted. The Grainne Uaile centre is a fine building however the roof and eaves would need to be weeded. As you have acknowledged, Bunowen Bridge is in need of another power wash and perhaps some paint. Louisburgh Church is a fine structure but the grotto opposite would also need power washing and be brightened up perhaps with potted plants & lights.

LANDSCAPING

There is quite a lot of tree planting and also many mature trees in evidence. Planting has been undertaken at the homes for the elderly estate on the Westport approach road and is very well presented. At the junction just past the Bunowen river, I would suggest that there is still a need for flower beds and shrubberies. Attractive hedging plants have been sown in the new car park however they could do with being weeded. The Church grounds are nicely kept, I suggest that some shrub beds be planted along the interior wall and also on the banks ; it should reduce the amount of mowing required. Perhaps a roundabout of flowers or shrubs could also be considered at the town square. The park has a unique aspect to it with the timber globe but the park itself looked overgrown and could do with being tidied up. The hanging baskets are a lovely touch. A few more flower boxes could be introduced around the town – ; be careful not to go to extremes however.

WILD LIFE & NATURAL AMENITIES

Louisburgh has a lot of mature woodland and its proximity to the Bunowen river and the sea provides a splendid opportunity for diverse species of wild life. It is good to see the walkway to "Scotts Island" is now finished. Your forward plan is encouraging in that you intend to consult local experts and environmental people; you have also mentioned a plan to develop guided nature walks and target areas for development eg "Old head" beach. It is clear that there is a lot of work to be done in this area so I suggest that a primary goal for this time next year is to have definite roads made in these areas.

LITTER CONTROL

Generally speaking, the town appears to have an effective anti-litter policy in operation. It was great to see a bottle bank in the car park. We did however notice a beer keg in the stream along the park that would need to be removed. There is an adequate number of litter bins and the litter picking nights sounds like a well co-ordinated affair. School children/teenagers should be involved in all anti litter projects. Educating them on the merits of re-cycling and waste management should help ensure that litter is properly managed not only now but also in the future.

TIDINESS

The signage at the Bunowen bridge junction is still cluttered with directional signs, property signs, for sale signs etc I suggest your plan for rectifying this be actioned on as soon as possible. There doesn't seem to be obstruction outside shops in terms of merchandise or sandwich boards so accessibility is good and gives a neat impression. At the time of adjudication, the town was undergoing huge road works and understandably it was not looking as orderly as it is undoubtedly capable of being. I appreciate that this is only a temporary upheaval for the good of the town and have allowed for that in the assessment of Louisburgh.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Cois Abhainn estate is nicely presented. The elderly housing estate on the Westport approach road is very well maintained and in keeping with the look of the town. Louisburgh holiday cottages are well presented with nicely kept rose bushes and young trees. As you acknowledged in your submission, there is a high degree of dereliction and unfortunately the decline in the younger population does not help this situation. I suggest you inform your local auctioneer/s when the proposed Louisburgh web site is up and running. Properties for sale can be very effectively presented to prospective buyers here and abroad on the internet and can be linked to the main Louisburgh web site. It was a very good idea to write to all residents requesting their co-operation in the Tidy Town competition; you should try and keep residents regularly involved and updated on all initiatives via the local paper and other promotional literature.

ROADS, STREETS & BACK AREAS

As aforementioned, adjudication coincided with major road works on the main street. There was evidence of pipe laying, new footpaths, possible speed control measures and lighting consequently the road surface was very bad. It is great to witness such improvements being undertaken and we look forward to the finished product. Already the new footpaths create a favourable impression with a lovely brick paving finish. The car park facility outside the national school is a good idea perhaps speed calming measures and flashing amber lights could be also introduced here. The area outside the secondary school needs to be re-surfaced and properly lined out for buses. The entrance road way to the park has a lot of potholes and the car park next to it would need to be tarred. The road margins just outside the 30 mile limit zone approaching Church street need to be cut back and landscaped. The lamp standards are very striking.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Louisburgh is an attractive town surrounded by beautiful scenery. It is clear that there is a lot of work still to do but so it is obvious that a lot has already been achieved. I would suggest that you fine tune your five year plan to make it as specific as possible in terms of time frames etc. If you follow through on your street by street strategy there are endless projects to look forward to. Draw on every available resource and try and instil community pride in all of its residents. Louisburgh is a work in progress, keep up the good work.