

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **MURRISK**  
County : **MAYO**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	36
The Built Environment	40	28	24
Landscaping	40	36	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	28	25
Tidiness	20	18	16
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	30
General Impression	10	9	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>212</b>

## Murrisk, Co. Mayo

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for a very thorough submission. Your high quality glossy newsletter and community plan is a credit to your committee. The community concerns (page 9, 10 and 11) and current community projects were slightly confusing, in that some of these projects are now complete and therefore were no longer current at the time of adjudication. The one page action plan documenting your strategies, proposed time frames and costs etc. is extremely impressive. It is very apparent that all the resources from LEADER to your local youth club have been used to develop the village. I would suggest that a printed map as seen on the inside cover of the community plan be altered and used for the purposes of illustration instead of a hand sketched one. If possible, you could also include a few more “before and after” photographs for various projects completed.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The café/craft shop at the foot of Croagh Patrick has a very interesting design. The wooden part of the exterior looks like it may need to be treated however. The Community Centre is tastefully constructed with a stone façade and blends perfectly with its surroundings. The Abbey is also well maintained. The Tavern bar/restaurant has been completed to a high standard and has a warm, welcoming colour scheme. Private dwellings are also in keeping with the landscape. The famine ship memorial is an unforgettable landmark – ; a stark and effective reminder of our ancestor’s plight. The stone semi circle is an intriguing feature in the Millennium Park but it would be helpful if there was a description plaque explaining what exactly is the inspiration and meaning behind the design. The pier is very scenic and the stone work in very good condition.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Overall Murrisk village is exceptionally well landscaped. Diverse mature trees and shrubs are to be seen on the Louisburgh approach road to the village. Margins on this side of the village appear to be very well kept. Shrubberies in the Croagh Patrick car park are very well maintained and feature many different types of plants. The graveyard and playing pitch were well cut on the day of adjudication. The picnic area on the Westport side of Murrisk is tasteful and the lead up to the first statue of Croagh Patrick is sensitively constructed and unobtrusive to the natural surroundings. There is a palpable sense of community pride here. Private gardens were also nicely designed and presented. We noted that there are quite a few trees planted in one area of the park – perhaps the intention is to transplant them around the park at a later date?

### **WILDLIFE and NATURAL AMENITIES**

This village has a unique location, it is cradled by a perfectly poised mountain; a natural

land mark that reliably remains through the years. In addition to its spiritual significance as our introduction to Christianity however it is also a mighty habitat for many species of plant, animal and bird life. Despite it catering for countless pilgrims down the years, it appears this natural asset successfully co-exists. The conservation of this majestic mountain should always remain the first priority. As it is the shoreline to Clew Bay, there is also opportunity for various sea and plant life. The pond in the Millennium Park is in need of further development, as it is a natural habitat it will have to be sensitively looked after without encroaching on the wild life.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There is clear evidence of an anti-litter policy being adhered to. There is no shortage of litter-bins in the Croagh Patrick car park. It was a good idea to use concrete bins as there should be less chance of vandalism and the natural colour is conducive to the surroundings. I would suggest the introduction of bottle banks in the car park as a possible solution to the litter control problem due to the huge volume of visitors. Considering that this is a very popular location for visitors, the village is very clean.

## **TIDINESS**

The neat gardens on the approach roads to Murrisk and the fresh façade of the newly renovated Tavern give a tidy first impression. Thankfully as one takes a more thorough look, this becomes a lasting impression. Directional signs are generally in good condition. It would appear that your committee took on board the comments of last year's adjudicator in this regard. There appears to be adequate parking giving the village an uncluttered feel.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Private dwellings are very well maintained and driveways and gardens splendidly presented. The distribution of your village newsletter and community plan means the whole community is targeted for co-operation in various initiatives and there is a sense of team effort – congratulations. I would suggest you continue to involve all the locals in future endeavours.

## **ROADS, STREETS and BACK AREAS**

Road surfaces through the village area in very good condition, side roads also have good surfaces generally. The speed control islands seem to work well. This adjudicator thinks the streetlights are very regal looking and enhance the look of the village. We noted some seats made out of stone which looked natural and are of course durable. The gravel in the car park was a tasteful choice and the gravel colours blend in perfectly with the natural surroundings.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The historical, spiritual and archaeological significance of Murrisk is huge. It also has a naturally beautiful setting. Apart from that there is a definite feeling of pride when one enters the village and there is evidence of work in every corner. The amount of voluntary work done in the community is a credit to all those involved. It is clear that an awful lot of improvements have been made in the year and it is only right that these are acknowledged. There are always ways to further enhance a community and when all the projects have been completed, it's usually time to go back to the original ones and re-furbish or re think them. Keep up the good work, continue to draw on all the resources at your disposal. Murrisk as the site of Christianity will never go out of fashion – remain its steadfast and diligent keeper.

### **SECOND ADJUDICATION (05/08/2002)**

Murrisk has earned a substantial increase in marks in this year's competition. The village is characterised by beautiful stone walls, handsome street furniture, good quality surfaces within the main areas and of course quality amenity developments. Car parking is orderly and adequate. The foreshore area on which the pump is featured could be developed further for amenity and accessibility to the pier could be improved. The picnic area with the wildlife interpretative panel was admired as were outbreaks of wildflowers. Murrisk-na-Bol could have been better presented, weed growth was prolific in the environs of dwellings. Congratulations on a fine presentation.