

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GRANGE**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	28
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	32	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	201	195

Grange, County Sligo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator was interested to note that Grange is located in a national heritage area for the Spanish Armada. Grange Tidy Towns Committee appears to have a high level of support from the local community and works closely with Sligo County Council. Your ongoing work was apparent throughout the village on adjudication day. It was disappointing to note your problems with individual vandals in relation to the Village Park. Hopefully this situation has been resolved by your preventative measures. Many thanks for your extremely clear map which was most useful on the day. Your development plan also clearly states where you plan to do what and when. Perhaps for next year's competition you could highlight significant areas on your enclosed map in order to assist adjudication. While the adjudicator appreciates your comments regarding the efforts put in by the committee, you must appreciate that the efforts made are extremely evident to the adjudicators and applauded. However you must also appreciate the time restrictions involved in judging over 700 entries for the National Tidy Towns Competition in a restricted time period. Hence it is not possible to comment on every individual item that the adjudicator has seen in a centre.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There are a number of industrial buildings on the Sligo Road – some of which contribute well to the built environment and others which look somewhat untidy. The Texaco Garage has made efforts to present their complex as well as they can in this regard. The modern school and grounds were beautifully maintained. The charming church and its well maintained grounds were greatly admired. The Drapery and Waters are very charming shop fronts. Spar and Rooney's also looked well – although Christmas decorations were still in evidence in the vicinity of the former! The GAA grounds on the Bundoran side of the village looked well when viewed from the road above. J. Costello's looked quite charming. Please remember to consider outbuildings when looking at the overall presentation of the built environment. Granny's Attic in the old national school (which also appeared to be the hall) looked extremely fresh in yellow with red trims. The Vocational School was also presented to a high standard.

LANDSCAPING

This is an aspect of the competition that you obviously enjoy and for which you show great enthusiasm! Planting was in progress on the day on the Sligo Road. The landscaped area with gravel bed on the Bundoran side of the village in front of some houses looked extremely well as did the planted beds to the village nameplates. But the most attractive of all has to be the Riverside Park which is a cheerful visual break for the visitor traveling through the village. The grass areas are beautifully maintained and interspersed with colourful floral displays, monuments and picnic areas. Work appeared to be ongoing on adjudication day and the riverside area itself was clean and sparkling!

WILDLIFE

Your work in relation to erecting bat and bird boxes in the school grounds and sowing wild flower seeds at Streedagh Corner are highly commendable contributions to this aspect of the competition.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control on the day was good. However in a village of Grange's size even one or two papers can create a bad impression. Some isolated patches were noted on the main street and one or two papers and deflated balloons (from a water-fight?) were evident in the Riverside Park area.

TIDINESS

The village has a generally neat and ordered appearance. However there are far too many advertising hoardings on approach roads and these should be discouraged as they give a rather cluttered appearance. You could perhaps consider screening the recycling bins in some way so that they don't look quite so intrusive on the road side. The boundary wall and building of the sports and leisure centre appeared quite stained although the pitches themselves were magnificently maintained. Pallets and buildings material in this vicinity created a bad impression but hopefully these will be removed once construction work to the houses is complete.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses mentioned in the previous paragraph looked well and hopefully will be landscaped to as high a standard as the adjacent Riverside Park. Houses in the centre of the village particularly in the vicinity of Spar and Rooney's looked well. A magnificent garden at a bungalow on the Bundoran Road was admired as were a number of grassy banked gardens leading down to the road side in this vicinity. A pretty stone house in the vicinity of the sports and leisure club was also greatly admired.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads and streets of the village were generally well cared for on the day. The numerous industrial premises on the Sligo Road have been mentioned previously. The Bundoran Road affords the visitor a magnificent view back to Benbulbin. The road surface of the car park to the Riverside Park was reasonable although some weeds were evident leading to the concrete kerbs to the grass area. Perhaps some planting to the car park area itself could be considered in the future as its bare tarmacadamed area contrasts strongly with the grassy areas of the park.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Grange is an attractive village on a very busy route between Bundoran and Sligo. The Tidy Towns Committee has obviously been working hard over a long period of time in order to show the village to its best advantage. The village itself is ever expanding and hence the area to be covered is growing more extensive. Great efforts are apparent and you show a strong sense of pride in your locality. Good luck with all your future projects.