

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYCONNELL**
County : **CAVAN**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18
Landscaping	40	16
The Built Environment	40	23
Litter Control	40	25
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	157

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballyconnell is welcome back into the competition and we look forward to serious competitive results in the years to come. You really need a focused, concentrated plan to be developed, one that can be endorsed by the whole community and followed, with this in place the rest will follow.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The riverside walks offer you an excellent opportunity to develop this new aspect of the Tidy Towns competition, while you scored reasonably well in it this year it is an area that Ballyconnell lends itself to doing well in and I encourage you to seek advice from those interested locally in flora and fauna about information, finds, natural habitats and encouragement of good practice in the riverside walk areas.

LANDSCAPING

Generally the landscaping in the village needs further consideration. The marina area was excellent but considerable more work would need to be done in order to score well in this section.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The town and shopfronts, previously remarked upon in adjudications, are very well presented and the considerable improvement in shopfronts is noted. Nonetheless much plastic remains, a sensitive response is needed. Interesting buildings noted were Carolans shop and P McKiernans, both fine examples of old shopfronts, one fully restored the other needed to be treated with care if development takes place. Local interests were obviously hard at work. The Church of Ireland restoration was noted, the good quality of the local Garda Station, the potential for the Ballyconnell House and entrance site area... this is to be hoped for after its potential sale is completed. The I.D.A. and the Catholic Church grounds were excellent examples of local agencies responding positively and putting beautiful colour in place. Word of warning here the old Catholic Church could become a problem if something isn't taken in hand soon.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was reasonable, there was no overall sense of litter control or tidiness on the day of the adjudication. Noted was the bad litter on the back road leading to the Canal from Maguires Garage.

TIDINESS

Overall Ballyconnell had an untidy appearance. That's not to gainsay your local shopfronts and the considerable work that has been done, but overall a sense of smartness and tidiness was not apparent, one example the Bawnboy Road verges have been cut but have been left unraked, giving rise to an even greater problem than had they had been let grow wild.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Beautiful private housing noted on the Bawnboy Road and in the small estate on the Derrylin Road was particularly note worthy. Within the town itself Orlaghs Cottage was an excellent example of somebody responding in a residential house to a commercial opportunity and brightening up the whole area while doing so.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Again the back areas of the town were letting you down. With visitors coming in greater numbers to the Marina you can expect that they will explore the ins and outs of the town and it is important that the back

areas and the side streets be as well presented as the Main Street. Noted was the stone building at the house near the Catholic Church that was being restored, this was a fine example of what can be done with your existing housing and buildings. Also the Ballinamore Road entrance left a lot to be desired and the building site on the left hand side as you approach the town was particularly unsightly.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

More community effort is needed if Ballyconnell is to return to the great days of the seventies. Competition from other towns have greatly increased since then. Put a plan in place and follow it closely, build on your strengths (wildlife etc.) and you will come back up near the top. Best wishes for the future.