

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINASLOE**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20
Landscaping	40	24
The Built Environment	40	24
Litter Control	40	23
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	181

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the care and consideration given in forwarding such a detailed account of your progress in Ballinasloe. The obvious co-operation between the UDC, The Chamber of Commerce and the Tidy Towns Committee is laudable. Your links with Co-Operation North, Ireland West, the ESB and Telecom Eireann must prove beneficial. We note you are currently preparing a Five Year Plan involving all sectors.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Congratulations on your Programme for the development and protection of areas of scientific interest. You seem to be well advanced in the task of gathering information on the habitats of animals and birds as well as identifying the wild flowers in your area. We visited the site at Poolboy and saw the major work in progress. The Suck Navigation Development will be an immense attraction for both visitors and locals. You are to be commended for enhancing the food supply for birds along the banks of the River Suck. You can be proud of the achievements at the Fair Green, Sli na hAbhainn and the Glebe.

LANDSCAPING

The sight of young trees both along the approach roads and in the Housing Estates is a joy to behold. On the Ahascragh approach the grass was rather high around the Town sign. The flower planting at the directional signs (near G.A.A. pitch) was very effective. The Glebe area is most attractive with the stone faced flower containers, manicured lawns and seating. It is wonderful to see such a variety of shrubs and trees. The wall and path at the Station is lovely. The flower planting at Square D Factory looked very well.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The renewal of stone walls and footpaths is noted. You must be aware of the further work necessary to beautify Main Street & Dunlo Street. There are still too many drab buildings and plastic signs. Open areas need attention also. The area near the Railway Bridge (a jumping arena?) is unsightly. There is a brightness about the Ballinasloe Business Park. Other places pleasing to the eye were the JET Petrol Station, Crazy Prices (and the ramp for the disabled), Marlin House, Carolines Hair Salon, Padraic Kilduff, Premier Properties Ltd., Ryans Pub, Hill Florist, Mannions Drapery, Credit Union, Michael Ward and SuperValu. So many buildings were neat and well painted but would be very much enhanced with some floral decoration. Clochar Na Trocaire, Scoil Josaif, Scoil Naisiunta Greallain and the Church were very well presented. As stated, you are aware of the premises that do not do Ballinasloe justice, so it would not be wise to furnish a list. However, one place does need urgent attention - Glynns Grocery, alongside the B Company building in Sarsfield Road. Derelict buildings need attention.

LITTER CONTROL

We have noticed the pole mounted litter bins throughout the area. On the day of adjudication the bin in Dunlo Street was overflowing at 2p.m. There was also some litter around the Bridge area near Bridge Street. Again at the public toilets the bin was overflowing. The appointment of a Litter Warden from July, 1996 is a marvellous initiative and will pay dividends.

TIDINESS

You are to be commended for the provision of Recycling facilities at Crazy Prices, Salmons and Noels Auto Care. Ensure that these facilities are well known by signposting them. The growth of weeds at the base of walls and kerbsides needs constant monitoring. The open areas need attention.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

These are some marvellous examples of effort by individual home owners. Just imagine the transformation if every private occupant could be persuaded to add just one hanging basket or window box! Each housing estate should be encouraged to have a nameplate - preferably in stone. At one such estate the only sign was Cul De Sac and passers-by could not even supply a name! The Gardens of the homes at Duneeda are beautiful. St. Joseph's Estate is developing nicely and the residents are playing their part in the presentation of their homes. There will always be a need to encourage some - a good example is a great spur!

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

We are delighted especially with your plans for greater wheelchair access to the car park and Church. Your programme to upgrade the public lighting is laudable. It is important that any new developments whether buildings, footpaths, etc. should make adequate provision for the disabled. Generally the roads are in good condition but keep checking the approaches. First impressions are important!

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The lasting impression of Ballinasloe is that of a Town on the move. Even the casual visitor is aware of the recent developments - the young trees and shrubs, the very colourful recreational facilities, the restoration and construction of stone walls, the car park development and the delightful walk along Sli na nAbhainn. The relationship between the Tidy Towns Committee, Schools and residents must be of benefit to the entire community. The Adjudicators covered a large area in assessing the overall picture of the Town and liked what they saw.