

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYGAR**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11
Landscaping	40	22
The Built Environment	40	21
Litter Control	40	22
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	159

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It was sad to read that your Committee receives no practical assistance from the local community. You will notice that a key factor in the adjudication criteria for 1996 is evidence of the involvement of the whole community in caring for the environment. A detailed map of your Village (Section D) with project locations marked would be of immense benefit to the adjudicators.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have no wildlife programme listed. You state the area is "mainly a forest area with new walks". Would it be possible to invite the local Environmental Officer along to advise some locals on the collation of information on the habitats of animals and birds as well as wild flowers in your area. Nature conservation should be an important part of your development work. The work of the Suck Valley Group throughout the area is excellent.

LANDSCAPING

The stone faced island flower bed in the Village was most impressive. Indeed, wherever flowers were planted they were delightful. Ballygar is blessed by the fact that it has many open spaces. Your tree planting is to be commended. Give some consideration to the provision of more street furniture and flower beds.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It is frustrating to be confronted with derelict buildings and be unable to rectify the position. Your best hope is pressure on the County Council which we note you are exercising. Ask the County Council to pursue the matter through the implementation of the Dereliction Act. Redesigning your Town Square will be a major project. I trust the Plan will reflect the uniqueness of your Town. It is important in any future plans to keep in mind the needs of the disabled. ESB Station could be screened off by tree planting. Congratulations to the traders for the excellence of their premises, notably the Post Office, Bank of Ireland, Gilmores Lounge, Kennys, The Thatch, Ballygar Pharmacy, Forest Hotel and Sean Naughtons.

LITTER CONTROL

On the day of adjudication, Ballygar was litter free with the exception of the Ballyforan approach road. Encourage the provision of bins by local traders.

TIDINESS

The big problem is always the control of weeds especially at the kerbsides and the base of walls. The cutting of grass verges on all approach roads makes a great impression. A major help is the support from individual home owners in keeping their boundary walls weed free. Have you any plans for recycling facilities? This facility will focus the attention of your community on the need for recycling materials and improving the environment.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

On the Ballyforan approach there is a housing estate (no nameplate visible) with seating and stone faced flower beds. A few homes had hanging baskets or window boxes. On the Athleague approach there were some excellent examples of what home owners can achieve in transforming the area. There is ample room for improvement among individual residences.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Generally all are well maintained. Again the condition of approach roads needs constant attention and the control of weeds along the kerbsides is vital.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Great credit is due to the Tidy Towns Committee. But there is still work to be done! The Pump could be freshly painted with flower planting at the base. Care should be taken to ensure that all signs are visible to the traveller. More flowers and street furniture. A special word of thanks must go to the Ballygar Dust Busters for their great work