

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLYRAGGET**  
County : **KILKENNY**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	29
The Built Environment	40	21
Litter Control	40	29
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>184</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is good to see Ballyragget returning to this Competition, and to read in the answers to the questionnaire that there is support from the community and from industry. The contents of your 5-year Development Plan will be eagerly awaited. It is also encouraging to read that you are in contact with official bodies, and that you contemplate a Fás scheme. Your map is very helpful; next year, please mark on it all the locations where improvements have been made during the previous twelve months. Please also fill in the complete questionnaire: for example, you left no. 6 blank - but there are historical etc. features which need to be mentioned (such as the Castle, the immediate questions to the visitor are: Who built it? Is it still occupied? May it be visited?). If you find that marking turns out to be comparatively low this year, there should be substantial increases once your Development Plan starts becoming effective.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

A nominal figure will be given under this new heading in this your first year back in the Competition.

### LANDSCAPING

The rehabilitation of the Green was still in progress on adjudication day this year and will probably take another year to complete. Congratulations on tackling the major project - already the fruits of your work are evident. You could also be thinking of tree-planting as a future project here, and encourage the local authority or private builders towards infill building of new homes in keeping with the scale of the place. Remember, too, that people walk where they want to walk! - you may find a "short-cut" path will be beaten by pedestrians crossing the Green. Therefore it is better to create a proper path to accommodate this than to let the grass become trampled or, an unwelcome solution, to fence off the area. Planting of hardwoods round the whole perimeter of the Green should be the objective, to match the trees already existing. There can never be enough trees, anywhere! - another place would be the north side of the Square, suitably protected from car-parking. This would really "make" the Square, where there are already some trees, and good planting in the triangle. An excellent piece of landscaping is noted below under "Residential". In the long term, another major undertaking might be the river bank near the bridge on the Durrrow Road.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church is very well looked after. The most important building, the Castle, appears to be inaccessible. Some shop fronts are attractive; Butler's B & B was especially noted, but there are far too many inappropriate signs. The Avonmore building, though outside the area judged, deserves mention as an unusually well-presented industrial premises.

### LITTER CONTROL

Litter seemed not to be a major problem on adjudication day.

### TIDINESS

There are still some "corners" here and there where walls are broken or new building sites have not yet been tidied up, such as at the north east corner of the Green. Where there is dereliction of any kind, this gives an untidy aspect to an area which is otherwise quite tidy. Generally, discourage cement block walls, post-and-wire fences, mass-produced or plastic shop signs, in the interests of overall neatness.

### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of Ballyragget is residential, and many of the older street houses are well kept. The small estate near the school seemed to be adequately looked after and Green View appeared slightly better (neither

are marked on the map). An (un-named?) housing estate on the right coming from Kilkenny has a most attractively planted green; this is so far, the most attractive piece of planting in the town.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces are generally adequate. Ongoing work was favourably noted on the stone walls at the Railway Bridge, and (recent?) stone wall and gate pillars at a residence opposite O'Sheas on the Kilkenny Road. The verges and boundaries on the Kilkenny Road vary from very good to very poor; and where the fine stone wall is broken it should be repaired in stone. The remarks of the adjudicator in previous years regarding disused petrol pumps should be considered. The area around the bridge, which ought to give an excellent first impression of Ballyragget coming from Durrrow, has poor fencing, a great deal of weed, and a generally scruffy appearance. Otherwise the approach from Durrrow is well kept.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

Good. It is only when areas "off the beaten track" are visited that a total picture which is not entirely satisfactory emerges. However, it is clear from the wonderful work done this year at the Green that there is the will to make improvements.