

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLINGARRY VILLAGE**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-96

|                                | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50           | 33           |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30           | 18           |
| Landscaping                    | 40           | 25           |
| The Built Environment          | 40           | 25           |
| Litter Control                 | 40           | 27           |
| Tidiness                       | 20           | 9            |
| Residential Areas              | 30           | 18           |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 40           | 23           |
| General Impression             | 10           | 7            |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>300</b>   | <b>185</b>   |

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The proposals put forward by your Architect are very comprehensive. She would appear to have realised the village's potential and formulated a plan of campaign based upon both restoration of worthwhile items of architectural heritage, and practical planning for the future. Two particularly exciting proposals are that to restore the castle ruins and create a new street (or really restore a very old one) and the Mall/stream development at the bottom of Main Street. The idea of a town park between the High road and the Low road is also potentially very exciting.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Again the potential for development in this category was obvious on adjudication day-the Mall/stream area, the scent of wild jasmine and the sound of the obviously energetic rookery on the laneway down to the old castle ruins. Perhaps the best way of tackling this issue of wildlife/natural amenities would be to get in touch with local environmental groups and experts who could then advise you and provide you with the data you need to approach this broad-ranging issue. From there, you can then identify the natural habitats of your area and see what species of animals, birds, fish and plantlife these draw. Involve the local schoolchildren in this project-they will hopefully bring an enthusiasm for the wealth of wildlife in their locality.

### LANDSCAPING

There are a lot of potentially promising sites for (even temporary) landscaping features within the town e.g. the forecourt area with bare earth and concrete by the (very grubby) telephone box could be landscaped and the very desolate and bare tarmac area at the top of Main Street with the display of lawnmowers looked quite sad. This adjudicator shall be happy to nominate the work at the Church of Ireland graveyard for a landscaping award. The flowers planted on the top of the stone wall with the seating recess incorporated into it were an interesting feature. However, the railings/gates needed painting and, as there is work ongoing to the other side of this fine building, it looks very overgrown and littered at the moment. No doubt you will ensure that this is all tidied when work is complete. The grass bank of trees opposite the church was beautifully maintained.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The public and commercial premises of the town were generally presented to a high standard on adjudication day. Both the Catholic Church, the school and their grounds were very well maintained. The Post Office has an attractive traditional front but could be freshly painted, as could the Garda Station. The boundary wall to the library was stained particularly to the side. The Parochial Hall looked very fresh with colourful flower tubs displayed. There was potentially interesting restoration work in progress to the Bridge House bar opposite the Post Office. As you are obviously aware from both last year's report and your response in the questionnaire there is a lot of unfortunate dereliction in the town - that at the bottom of Main Street at the junction of the Newcastle-West and Rathkeale roads being a particular problem in its prominent location. The adjudicator noticed that a house had just been sold, perhaps this will result in the possible renovation of a solid house of character. Barrett's was admired for its attractive window boxes, as was the Maxol station for its colourful hanging baskets. Some of the shop facades in the town, such as J. Higgin's, looked quite dated and could be replaced with more sympathetic modern fronts. Also the plastic signage to such shops as Tierney's foodmarket and Barrett's should be replaced by more traditional timber ones. The town has some fine traditional facades e.g. Quaid's Corner House has some beautiful detailing to the side street. Ahern's is a fine old pub front and M. Quaid's is another fine traditional facade.

### LITTER CONTROL

The only litter apparent on adjudication day was that caused by the ongoing work in the Church of Ireland

graveyard.

#### TIDINESS

The general impression of the town on the day was one of tidiness. However, certain areas should not be neglected when tackling this category. The telephone box was very grubby. The car park area/empty site by Burke's looks quite desolate and should be landscaped. The green space between the Garda Station and the houses behind was very overgrown. Some weeds were noted to the kerbs along Main Street and coming in the Killmallock road. The yard area opposite Trainor's looked very messy and unsightly.

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses of the town were generally well presented. The quaint cottages opposite the church had some beautifully landscaped open areas. A very attractive garden by Trainor's was admired. Some of the town's neglected houses are fine buildings well worth restoration. For example, the cottages opposite the Church of Ireland are admirable buildings and could be very attractive but are currently in bad order. Another house worthy of restoration is that with the steps and yellow front diagonally opposite Dunworth's.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The roads of the town were generally presented to a high standard. The Killmallock road was admired for its attractive stone walls and new trees to either side of road. However, an untidy farmyard area gave a bad impression and could be screened from public view.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballingarry is a town steeped in history in an attractive pastoral setting, with its Main Street meandering down to the stream and mall and rising up again to the Catholic Church. It has some fine buildings and historic and architectural features which make it quite unique and is a town with a lot of potential both for its own renaissance and for doing extremely well in the competition. Good luck with your future plans -it was a pleasure to visit this attractive town.