

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLYORGAN**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18
Landscaping	40	24
The Built Environment	40	23
Litter Control	40	28
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>181</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the competition in this your first year of entry. The five year plan you submitted with your application is a very comprehensive one for a village of Ballyorgan's size. You would appear to have a clear direction in which to work for the short, medium and long term. Best wishes with your endeavours!

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This adjudicator was delighted to note the wealth of wild flowers filling the hedgerows along the approach roads. The vibrant purple wild rhododendrons along the Kilfinane road and opposite the church in the village were greatly admired. There were also quite a few wild flowers on Kilmallock/Kildorrery road including wild sage which should be preserved while still maintaining a neat appearance. Perhaps the best way of tackling this category of wildlife/natural amenities would be to get in touch with your local environmental groups and consult them in relation to providing you 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 attract. Involve the local schoolchildren in this project-they will hopefully bring an enthusiasm to the appreciation for the wealth of wildlife in their locality.

### LANDSCAPING

The abundance of fine stone walls throughout the village was noted and admired. In particular that opposite the school with its narrow horizontal banding and lovely wild daisies, blossoming hawthorn bush and yellow gorse-like flower growing above on its grass bank. These are a distinct advantage to a village such as Ballyorgan and this adjudicator would actively advocate preservation and restoration of the same. The old pump has an attractive stone surround and this could be a wonderful opportunity to restore it to its former glory as a feature in the village centre. There is potential to perhaps develop a green space between the church and the white cottage next door. The beautiful old turreted stone gate lodge is another valuable piece of Architectural heritage and its further development/restoration is eagerly awaited, as at the moment its entrance area is quite overgrown. You obviously have some exciting ideas contained in your five year plan-best of luck with implementing them.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both the commercial and public buildings of the village were reasonably well presented on Adjudication Day. The unusual red stone church looked well with freshly painted railings, although the gate was scratched. The choice of paint colour is really a matter of taste but the adjudicator felt that perhaps a green would harmonise better with the stone of the church than the current wine colour. The derelict Community Hall needs freshening up and the broken windows looked unfortunate. The old Hall behind the village pump looked sadly neglected also. The school was very fresh but the boundary wall shared with the playing field on the Mitchelstown road needs some attention. The Village Inn was well presented, but A.Moynihan's could be freshly painted.

**LITTER CONTROL** There was no litter visible on Adjudication Day-congratulations to all concerned and keep up the good work!

### TIDINESS

The village had a neat appearance on Adjudication Day, although care must be taken not to neglect such issues as weeds, messy yard areas and the obvious problem of dereliction. The stone wall opposite the church could be re-whitewashed. Some weeds were noted to the kerbsides. The old creamery with its many outbuildings and barrel-vaulted corrugated-iron sheds looked quite neglected with piles of gravel and sand stored outside, so your plans for landscaping and painting the same were read with relief. The abandoned white cottage with red tin roof beside the church was very fresh on the day. The alleyway

beside Moynihan's looked to be a bit overgrown and unsightly looking.

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The private houses both within the village and on the approach roads were a delight on Adjudication Day. Congratulations to all concerned. The bungalows on the Kilfinane road were reasonably well kept although greater attention could be paid to boundary walls. The cottage beside the Village Inn was very fresh as was the cream-coloured boundary wall opposite. The attractive old stone cottage with stone horseshoe medallion looked well although the boundary wall could be freshened up before next year. The Long Delay cottage was admired for its vibrant yellow colour and magical display of lupins.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads of the village could have been presented to a higher standard on the day. The potholes on the main Mitchelstown road had been filled in but both the yield sign and Ballyorgan sign were very grubby. In contrast, the Kildorrery/Kilmallock road was very potholed and rather overgrown; however, the road signs were very fresh. The Kilfinane road was also slightly overgrown with nettles etc., but the wild sage and rhododendrons were a delight. The children crossing sign by the school was also quite grubby. It was a pleasure to see the retention of the traditional Irish telephone box in its pristine condition although the broken down wall beside it looked unfortunate.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

The peaceful village of Ballyorgan was a pleasure to visit on a sunny summer's day set against its splendid backdrop of magnificent scenery of the Ballyhoura Mountains. As you are aware there is a lot of work yet to be done but the village has terrific potential and the Committee has obviously the enthusiasm to achieve all its objectives. Congratulations to all concerned for a terrific first entry!