

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BANOQUE**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	27
The Built Environment	40	24
Litter Control	40	19
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>170</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the competition in this your first year of entry. From your very clear map, you would appear to have a very distinct and practical plan for what you would like to achieve for your village. Your relationship and level of communication with Limerick County Council, FAS, and Ballyhoura Development Ltd. is to be commended. However, it is important to have drawn up a 3-5 year plan which highlights the village's weak areas, and identifies its strengths in order that you may concentrate on these problem areas and promote the town's strong points. Many thanks for your comprehensive responses to the questionnaire and map both of which were most helpful on Adjudication Day.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Although your responses to the questionnaire would appear to indicate that you feel the area is wildlife-free, this adjudicator found that the hedgerows were positively alive with wild flowers including wild sage and different varieties of ferns. It is important to bear in mind nesting times when hedge-trimming. Perhaps the best approach to this issue of wildlife/natural amenities would be to contact local environmental groups and experts who could advise you and provide you with the information you need to tackle this broad-ranging issue. From there you can then identify the wildlife habitats of your area and see what varieties of animals, birds, fish and plantlife these attract. Involve the local schoolchildren in this project-they will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the wealth of wildlife in their locality.

### LANDSCAPING

The area of the village which created the most impact was the expanse of landscaping along the N20, and in particular the simply presented picnic area. This looked magnificent with its timber picnic tables, litter bins and planted beds. These latter had yet to realise their full potential on Adjudication Day, but were, none-the-less, well maintained. The entrance frame looks rather unfortunate-perhaps it could be removed? The grass verges had been cut, but not yet cleared. The new trees on either side of the road looked magnificent.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both the public and commercial premises of the village were presented to a reasonably high standard. The Maxol station looked rather bare, weedy and potholed-perhaps it could be landscaped in some way. The charming old Post box on its pole should be freshened up. The school and grounds looked well, although some sympathetic landscaping would improve its somewhat austere appearance. Some weeds were noted to the base of the boundary wall. The sign to the grounds was quite unreadable and should either be painted up or removed. Some effort could also be made to conceal/disguise the highly prominent oil tank by means of careful landscaping. The church grounds were also well maintained if somewhat spartan in appearance. The boundary wall could also be painted before next year's competition, and some weeds were apparent to the base. The boundary wall to the graveyard was rather badly stained, some weeds were noted at the base and the gates were quite rusty. The graveyard itself was well maintained.

### LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is of great importance in a village of Banogue's size. Some papers were noted to the bramble hedge at the back of the new trees and flower beds and also along the cut (but uncleared) grass along the verges.

### TIDINESS

The main problems in this category are untidy yard areas, weeds, and temporary-looking fencing. The untidy yard area adjacent to the entrance to the lay-by/picnic area with its metal post and barbed wire

surround looked unfortunate. The fence should be replaced by something of a more permanent nature such as a hedge or stone wall. Another unfortunate fence was that near the bend in the road leading to the church. Weeds were very apparent to the boundary wall at the junction of the road leading to the church. The abandoned cars behind the garage and on the opposite side of the road looked quite unsightly. Flyposting should be discouraged as it creates an untidy appearance to the area.

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses and gardens of Banogue were generally presented to a high standard. The boundary walls to the houses on the road leading to the church were very fresh, a gravelled forecourt area to a bungalow was rather weedy, however. The blockwork boundary wall at the junction with the boreen on this road looked quite unfortunate. It was broken down on one side, and should be plastered and painted. An extremely attractive house and garden was that with the overhanging chestnut tree. However, the outbuildings should be freshened up. Another enchanting garden, was that beside the church with the stone entrance posts and wall. However, the plastered portion of the wall should be freshened.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road to the church was quite weedy and littered, although the hedgerows had been cut back. However, the wild sage and ferns were a delight. The children crossing sign was rather grubby and could have been washed, and the junction sign was quite battered and the post rusty. The temporary piece of timber closing a gap in the hedgerows on this road should be replaced. The graveyard road was also quite overgrown. The main N20 was maintained to a high standard.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village of Banogue looked very well on Adjudication Day, considering it was your first year of entry. There are a few problem areas which need to be concentrated on for next year's competition and, hopefully, the constructive remarks proffered in this report will be of help in that regard.