

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GALBALLY**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22
Landscaping	40	32
The Built Environment	40	32
Litter Control	40	32
Tidiness	20	17
Residential Areas	30	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	300	240

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your aspirations for Galbally as expressed in your work programme are extremely laudable. You have a clear grasp of the unique historical, geological and ecological heritage of the locality and have considered this in relation to your plans for the town. The work programme also expresses a commendable spirit of participation and involvement for the community as a whole. Many thanks for your precise work plan and simple yet effective map, both of which successfully highlighted the relevant areas.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have also expressed, in your work programme, a very clear knowledge of the wildlife that is unique and special to your immediate surroundings. Your aspirations to keep these areas as natural as possible are to be commended. Perhaps the local schoolchildren could participate in wildlife projects in their environs in addition to your proposed poster competition.

LANDSCAPING

The town of Galbally and its approach roads were positively ablaze with incidental open spaces and colourful floral displays, on Adjudication Day! The trees around the town square, with the petunias, marigolds, and pansies at their bases, surrounded by sparkling white-washed concrete kerbs looked quite majestic. The proposals for this area should enhance it - try to ensure that the result is not too "urban" for its country town setting. The colourful displays of floral tubs, shrubs, trees, hanging baskets and farm machinery to O'Donovan's were greatly admired. The simple presentation of the village pump in the town square, with its stone wall surround, topped by marigolds and pansies was most effective. As were the new shrubs leading to the graveyard. The park area on the Limerick/Mitchelstown road was neatly presented with its stone surrounded planted bed of pansies, grass, seating and trees. The picnic/park areas opposite Moor Abbey looked truly magnificent, the vertical limestone monoliths being particularly successful.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The public and commercial buildings -particularly those situated in the town square were presented to a high standard on Adjudication Day. Moor Abbey looked very majestic and will look positively dramatic when floodlit! The church looked reasonably fresh, although the back wall was quite stained. The grounds and car park area to the front were very neatly presented. The long back wall of the Community Centre behind the church looked quite grubby, while the front wall sported some unfortunate graffiti. The broken window to the extension looked unfortunate. The school grounds were neatly presented, with silver birches overhanging the boundary wall, but could perhaps be further landscaped. The railings could be freshened before next year's competition, while the outbuildings (possibly the bicycle sheds) look quite austere in a grey/brown brick, and could perhaps be softened by growing some creeper to this side. The Tourist Office also looked quite grubby and cobwebbed, although the window boxes were admired. The Health Centre looked quite fresh. The door and sign to the Fire-Post both needed attention. The former in respect of re-painting, the latter in terms of repairing. The peaceful graveyard was neatly presented, although the pebble-dashed entrance wall and gates should be painted before next year's competition. The practice of window stickers such as those to the windows of both Centra and the Monument View Shop should be discouraged as they give the shop-fronts a very cluttered appearance. However, the former looked very fresh in yellow and blue, and the colourful display of geraniums to the latter looked magnificent. Plastic signage is also quite inappropriate in a town of this nature. That to Fraser's lounge/bar and undertaker's should be replaced with a more traditional timber one. Wallace's is a charming traditional shop front with colourful flowerpots displayed in the window behind. The unusual and attractive Art Deco tiling to Kiely's Post Office need some restoration in places, and the building itself could be freshened up. Mulvey's Coffee Shop was very fresh in a pale powder green colour.

LITTER CONTROL

Although it is appreciated that the town of Galbally attracts many visitors, which obviously causes problems in terms of litter control, it is also true that any litter, papers, bottles, cans etc. are extremely evident in a town of this pristine quality. Therefore the community of Galbally must be even more vigilant. One or two papers and cans were noted in the stream near the bridge, a few papers outside the school and some litter to the back of the Community Centre.

TIDINESS

On first impressions the town of Galbally looked quite neat and tidy on Adjudication Day. Closer inspection, however, revealed a few minor problem areas which need to be addressed. The map/signpost in the Town Square mentioned in last year's report was still quite weather-beaten. A few weeds were noted to the gravelled forecourt area to the graveyard.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category was very high with residents showing an obvious pride in their properties. The magnificent long townhouse in cream with red trims, window-frames and door on the Tipperary road corner of the Square, had very interesting detailing to the door and looked most attractive, with its resplendent hanging baskets. The delightful garden to the B&B near the school with its witty sign was also admired, as was the garden opposite the graveyard with its colourful flowers and shrubs tumbling over the stone boundary wall. In terms of the housing estates, Galtee View looked well with an attractive stone wall beyond, and Pine Avenue was also well presented, although the signage and the timber fence to the first house needed some attention.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category was truly excellent. The road-signage generally in the town was very fresh although some graffiti was noted to the junction sign to the road leading to the housing estates near the school. The perspex telephone box was in good order. The school road was quite potholed. The Limerick/Mitchelstown road displayed an abundance of new stone walling, the hedges were well maintained and although the signage was very fresh, try to ensure that the "Galbally" sign doesn't get obscured by the overhanging trees. The entrance area to the sports ground on this road was rather flaky, and should be freshened before next year. The road to Moor Abbey and the housing estates was particularly admired with its abundance of wild daisies.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The initial impression created by Galbally was of a charming, neatly presented town with an abundance of colourful floral displays, and closer inspection did not produce any less of an impact! The town, as you are obviously aware, is rich in historical, geological and archaeological wonders, set as it is in magnificent scenery in a valley, with the tree-banked sharp incline of hills behind, as a backdrop.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (04/08/96)

On second adjudication day there was virtually no disposable litter. Beware when implementing your impressive new plans for the main square that you do not suburbanise this fine space. One of Galbally's chief attractions is the way in which the rural surroundings seem to enter the village and are reflected in the vernacular townscape and architecture. Paved areas and traffic islands can often reduce the impact of traditional and natural surroundings in a detrimental way. (Incidentally, a low stone wall with planting between the road and the church car park - with entrances for cars at either end - would take the bleakness off this space). Congratulations to the Committee and their helpers on another year of achievement.