

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLA**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	22
The Built Environment	40	22
Litter Control	40	29
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	172

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your 5 year plan appears to be focusing on the key areas in the town. This is a good approach and your efforts in this area are noted. One area which you may consider is traffic calming as there are a lot of cars speeding through the town. You will need to co-ordinate with the County Engineer about this matter. The blessed well and round tower are significant feature for the town. You should consult the OPW on the well and round tower before embarking on any development works here. The fencing opposite the well should be replaced with a stone wall. Some type of interpretative plaque and road sign would also improve this area, and would encourage visitors to stop. Your plan should include an additional layer of information which takes account of local history, natural landscape and problem areas . This will enable you to develop improvements which knit in to the existing character of the town.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The wildflower area on the northern approach is very interesting. Also the woodland area near the holy well should be developed with a pathway and additional tree planting.

LANDSCAPING

The new tree planting on the Castlebar road looks well, and the flowers and planting within the Town are very attractive. Some more windowboxes and hanging baskets may be needed tto complement the existing displays. You should consider a plan for the town square as it has great potential. The new housing estate on the Kiltimagh road has some good new trees, but the open space should be mown.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Buildings within the Town are generally presented to a high standard. AIB and Bank of Ireland need freshening up. The Olde Woods was well-presented. John McEllins pub could be enhanced with some flowers. The chipper looks well as does the pub next door. The Bridge Inn is a potential contender for a shopfront award if freshened up and flowers added. Roches Fashions was very tidy and would also benefit from the addition of floral displays. The Market Square has great potential for development. You should consider another use for the church. The Nally Monument was well presented, but the flagpole was rusty and there was no flag flying !

LITTER CONTROL

There was good litter control in the town on the day, and there was very little litter evident. This is a great effort as you are located on such a busy road.

TIDINESS

There are some weedy kerbs on the Claremorris road which require attention. The centre of the town was well maintained and had a well-kept appearance.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Generally, houses were presented to a high standard - houses such as Forest View B&B were very well-maintained. Many of the houses along Main Street were generally well-maintained, but a few window-boxes would improve them greatly.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach from Castlebar was well-maintained, margins were mown and there was attractive tree planting. The new wall along the Kiltimagh road was very impressive. The margin on the other side of

the road should be mown. Roads were generally well kept but you should consider extending your tree planting to the other approach roads.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is a good effort being made but you need to think out your development plan in terms of the resources which the Town has. The Nally Monument, square, round tower and well could all form part of a development area for the town. Maintenance of open spaces is irregular in places and this needs to be addressed.