

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINA-MAYO**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12
Landscaping	40	25
The Built Environment	40	17
Litter Control	40	19
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	14
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	17
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	153

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The development plan which you have submitted is working out well. The objectives which you have set down are being gradually implemented, which is very heartening to see. The river Moy could still be developed further. Colour schemes and reduction of signage in many parts of the town are necessary. Parking, that is, illegal parking, is a serious problem and creates many dangerous corners. A traffic warden would have more than enough work here! Litter control has improved but keep a watch on localised pockets mentioned. On adjudication day, locals were seen littering openly on Knox Street - which is a sign that the committee has a lot of work to do still, especially with the children, who were responsible for the bulk of the litter.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Belleek Wood would provide an excellent regional amenity and would be an excellent focus for wildlife protection on the river Moy. There is still plenty of potential to develop the Moy as a regional amenity area.

LANDSCAPING

Overall, a good effort was made this year in this category. Residents were seen planting a small bed near to The Fireplace Centre. The new trees and wall at the junction of Francis Street and Workhouse Road looks tidy and improves the corner. The new tree planting along the Quay Road looks very well. You should try to keep a clear area around each tree which should help them to establish and gives a tidy impression. The tree planting along the river Moy near the statue was very impressive. Try to continue this upstream on the bank from Murphy's towards the bridge. The development of the front area at the corner of Bury Street and Arthur Street gives an uplift to the whole area. Planting in Ruane Park is coming on well and the Park was actively used on adjudication day.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The renovation works at the railroad station are a great improvement to the town. Murphys pub looks very attractive and holds the Quay. The courthouse could be very attractive if its immediate environs were tidied up and some floral displays put in. Bartra Hotel, Bank of Ireland, and Pipers Inn were all admired. The post office could use some freshening up. Derelict buildings and sites on the old Shamble Street are a serious problem, but renovation seen on adjudication day is encouraging. Hopefully, the site on the river will be well-planned by future purchasers. Derelict buildings were also prominent at the junction of Hill Street and John Street and around the car park area on James Street. The derelict building three doors down from Norwich Irish on James Street detracts from the area. Also, the building to the right of Norwich Irish is in need of painting and all the plants in the window-boxes were dead. St. Michaels Church on the Swinford Road looked well. Tullios, Rouses, Thomas Archers, and The Loft were all well-presented. On Bridge Street, Cafollas looked really well, as did Dohertys and the Credit Union. An Boly Bui needs freshening up. On Hill Street, Tommy Fox's looked fresh with its hanging baskets. Sandras shop at the junction of John Street and Hill Street looked very well. The new Telecom offices looked very well.

LITTER CONTROL

Overall, litter control was quite strong in some areas, and the Litter Free Area signs on Abbey Street may be helping. The worst areas for litter control were Knox Street and John Street. The entrance to Ruane Park had some litter, and bins are needed here. Quite a lot of litter had washed up on the banks of the river Moy near Ruane Park, and you need to organise a team to regularly keep it clean, especially as the Ballina Salmon Festival approaches. Some litter outside Dunnes was noticed. Litter on James Street outside Numark was a problem. Litter was also noted at Pipers Hill. A serious problem with litter was seen on the Crossmolina Road from in front of the Mercy Convent down to Garden Street.

TIDINESS

The corner at Bridge Street and Shamble Street is in need of attention and was very dirty. Illegally-parked caravans on the Crossmolina Road were a problem. Hopefully, the County Council can help the committee to deal with this matter.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

This is a category which the committee will need to focus on. Houses on Garden Street need freshening up and some window-boxes and a little colour would help a great deal. Many houses along Abbey Street require re-painting and are a bit drab. Perhaps the County Architect could help in devising a colour scheme. New housing off Dunree Road looked well, but grass was not mown. The Greenhills estate looked very well-kept and tidy. The only problem was litter which was noticed outside the Family Value shop. The garden of the house at the junction of Brook Street and Knox Street looked very well. Marian Crescent looked well with the planting and the grass was freshly mown. Houses here were generally well-maintained. The houses along the Swinford Road were very attractive. There are serious problems on Fenian Row and the estates off of it, with derelict houses, burnt-out houses, and drab houses in poor condition on Tyrawley Road. We realise that there are possibly difficulties here which the committee cannot tackle, and suggest that you co-ordinate with the County Council, the residents association, and the local parish priest. Houses in the Quay direction were maintained to a very high standard. Derelict houses at the junction of Hill Street and John Street create a poor view.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Most of the roads into Ballina were very tidy and litter appeared to be under control. The approach from Quay Village was very well-maintained. The Castlebar Road was generally well-kept. However, it and the Foxford Road would benefit from some more tree-planting. The Dunree Road looked very well. The Killala Road suffers from lack of attention to boundary walls and fencing. There is a need for planting to screen Jet Oil on this road. The numerous signs regarding the halting site were more obtrusive than the six caravans we passed on adjudication day. The Crossmolina Road would be improved if the Shell Centre were screened a bit. This road suffered from lack of attention - grass verges were not mown and there were weedy kerbs. Hedging should be planted along the barbed wire behind the town name sign. The entrance to Ruane Park is not wide enough for two cars to pass and should be widened to improve safety on the Quay Road. The Swinford Road would be improved if the stone walls were cleared of overgrowth and repaired. The new stone wall at the speed limit sign is impressive and others could follow from this example. The entrance to the car park from Bury Street needs to be improved. At James Street the improvements to the footpath along the river and tree-planting looked really well, but the car park is an eyesore. Re-surfacing and marking of the car park, and the introduction of some trees to this area are needed. A plan is needed for Pipers Hill as it is drab and was quite dirty. There is an excessive amount of plastic signage on Garden Street and Arran Street, and this detracts from the area. Plastic signage was also a problem at Dillon Terrace and up to the junction with Knox Street, the entire bend in the street has too many signs, creating a cluttered and untidy streetscape.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You are making good progress but need to tackle the litter problem. Some buildings in the Town need to be repainted, and suggesting colour schemes for streets could help achieve this objective.