

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINROBE**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	18
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12
Landscaping	40	21
The Built Environment	40	22
Litter Control	40	16
Tidiness	20	9
Residential Areas	30	11
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	133

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

While the efforts of the committee are appreciable, you really do need a plan and a phased approach to the development of the town. The town has a lot of potential which is not being harnessed. A plan would enable you to co-ordinate with other organisations, to secure funding, and to gather support from other residents.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river Robe is an outstanding natural amenity and wildlife area in the centre of the town. Your work to date to improve the Bowers Walk is admirable. You should work with the County Council to develop a greenway along this river to pass from the outskirts of the town into its centre. Some additional planting of deciduous trees in the large lawns would be a great improvement in this area. The signpost for the walk needs repainting, and you should consider other signposting on the main roads. You may consider consulting your regional tourism officer to develop the potential of this amenity.

LANDSCAPING

The lawns in the amenity area on the High Street side of the walk were recently mown, and the entire area was maintained to a high standard. The bridge could use re-painting to preserve the metalwork. More trees could be planted at the riverside park and some shrubs for interest. Planting is also needed around the Cornmarket area, to include street trees, seating and lighting. Hopefully, the urban renewal plans that you are developing with the County Council will take this into account.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The renovation of the workhouse on the Kilmaine Road is an excellent addition to the town and we look forward to this becoming an example of restoration and reuse of vernacular buildings in the town. The ruined church on the Castlebar road is very clean but the grass in the grounds is not mown and the area has an unkempt appearance. Perhaps this building, too, could be re-developed to serve some function. The beautiful Georgian house on High Street will hopefully be renovated when sold. Ballinrobe Abbey and grounds were very well maintained but the yard on the riverside of the Abbey is still very untidy with old tyres, goods on display and cars parked haphazardly. OMalley's on Glebe Street was well presented. The buildings along Church Lane need to be livened up - you should seek the advice of the County Architect regarding a colour scheme. M&Bs on New Street looks well, as does the Centra on Cornmarket and M. Flannery's. The shops on Main Street were presented to a high standard as was the Bank of Ireland and Martin Jennings. There are a lot of sites for sale here and we look forward to the further renewal of this area in the coming years. Try to encourage the use of hanging baskets and windowboxes as they would liven up the town.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter is a problem in some areas of the town, in particular the Ballyglass Road at the entrance to the council estate. Litter control along the riverside park was very good, but you should provide litter bins here. There was virtually no litter on High Street, Bridge Street, Abbey Street and Bog Road and the adjoining laneways. There was some litter on Watsons Lane.

TIDINESS

There was dumping along Creagh Road which is a serious problem as visitors to Lough Mask pass through this area. Also, along the Ballyglass Road, the broken down stone walls give the area a neglected appearance. The River Robe and Bowers Walk were very clean - well done!

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many of the houses on the council estate off the Ballyglass Road need painting. The derelict and neglected houses on Creagh Street detract from the other properties which are generally well-maintained. The gardens of the houses on Bog Road were well presented, as were the houses in Cornmarket which have cheery hanging baskets. A few boundary walls along Kilmaine Road need freshening up. There was generally a high standard of buildings maintenance, but there are problem areas which you must address.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Along the Castlebar Road, illegally parked caravans are a problem. Grass verges were not mown, and more trees could be planted along the approach to the town. Along the Ballyglass Road the walls were in poor repair, and there were weeds along the walls. The junction of this road with the Castlebar Road is still a problem. Along the Creagh Road, again the verges were not cut. The old boundary wall at the treatment plant should be cleared of overgrowth. The town name sign was not mown or planted, as was the case along Bog Road. We look forward to the renewal of the Cornmarket area, and the new information sign on Abbey Street looks well.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You are making some progress with certain areas, while other aspects such as maintenance and litter control need to be addressed. There is perhaps a need for a greater awareness in the town for the upkeep and development of the spaces in the town. Ballinrobe has some unique and interesting features in its open spaces and architecture. These need to be correctly developed over the coming years through the implementation of a co-ordinated plan. We look forward to returning next year to see the results of your continuing efforts.