

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINTUBBER**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12
Landscaping	40	27
The Built Environment	40	25
Litter Control	40	26
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	182

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The three year plan of action which you have submitted is well thought out. Please try to submit details of works which have been completed each year as it was difficult to establish which projects were complete. As the town is so spread out, there is an extensive network of stone walls and grass verges to be maintained. We would suggest that you consider mowing the grass verges of the main roads to a width of say 1-2m, and maintain minor roads and the remaining grass areas as wildflower meadows. This would significantly reduce maintenance demands and would allow you to concentrate your activities on development works.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The greatest amenity which the town has is the shoreline of Lough Carra and you should concentrate on developing this area. For example some of the weedy areas around the castle could be seeded as wildflower meadows. The views from the castle are spectacular and you should ensure that this area is developed sensitively. The pier area is well maintained and the recent resurfacing work is an improvement. You should try to keep the thistles on the roadside areas down by spot spraying. This area has great potential for development as a fishing and boating centre.

LANDSCAPING

The grass verges along the N84 were not mown on adjudication day. These central areas need to be mown to give a tidy appearance. The tree planting along the Castleburke road will create an impressive avenue in time. Try to keep the base around these trees weed free by spraying. This planting is evidence of a good long term strategy by the committee. There was a great effort this year in the use of colourful planting to liven up corners and key areas. The bed at the junction of the Kilmalley road and the N84 looked well, as did the planters in the Abbey car park and at the junction of the Ballintubber and Abbey roads. The Abbey grounds were very well maintained, grass was well trimmed and the planting throughout the Abbey grounds was very well presented - well done.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The stone wall around Castleburke Castle is a great improvement. The whitewashed building above the Castle is well presented. We hop that your efforts to secure funding for the restoration of the castle are successful and suggest that you contact An Taisce for advice. Also, you should put up a sign for this area at the Abbey. Corleys pub was well presented and Mary Morans coffee shop is very charming. Kellys pub and post office is also very attractive, but please remove the plastic stickers from the window. You could consider removing the plastic bar sign so that it can be a strong candidate for an award.

LITTER CONTROL

There was litter visible in the Abbey car park. Litter bins are needed here. The new litter bins listed in your plan were not in place for the adjudication. There was excellent litter control along the main street especially outside Kellys shop despite there being no litter bin!

TIDINESS

Generally there was a high standard of tidiness in the town and its environs. Try to tackle the grass margins issue as this will contribute greatly an appearance of tidiness in the area.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many houses were presented to a high standard, especially along the Kilvalley road. The pink and cream house and garden were an example of the high standard of presentation in this area. The houses along

the Castleburke road were in good order - well done. We can see why Banogues area residents top your local competition - the entire area was very impressive and the townland plaque was planted - well done. The planting along the stone wall at the Kilvalley road was noted. There was a lot of tree planting noted in front gardens in Ballintubber which was very encouraging. Some of the walls at Skehanna Lower could be improved by weeding and clearing of brambles. Also some of the walls along the Castleburke road need clearing and repair work. Walls in Dromore need attention as they are very overgrown. You should consider planting hedging along the Claremorris road at Glasgort to fill in gaps here.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Along the Ballinrobe road the climbers planted along the block wall will be a real improvement to this road - well done. The flower bed at the Town sign looked well. The roadside margins were being trimmed on adjudication day which was encouraging. Along the Kilvalley road, the welcome sign was well presented. The grass verges along this road were not mown with the exception of great care taken in front of a few houses. Along the Claremorris road, the old village name sign and Abbey sign are rusty and should be freshened up. Along the Castlebar road the verges are wide and offer great potential for tree planting. A 2m wide strip along this section should be regularly mown. The planting of the Skehana road and main street were very nice but the bed was a bit obscured due to the tall grass. You could consider a colour scheme for field gates along approach roads.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You are making good progress. Maintenance of verges is a problem but we hope that you found our comments useful. Litter control should be constantly monitored. There were signs throughout the town of good effort, and your new projects are coming along well.