

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYCASTLE**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12
Landscaping	40	25
The Built Environment	40	18
Litter Control	40	21
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	148

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is good to hear that you are working with the County Council and your local development committee. You will need to develop a plan to identify key areas and a strategy. One aspect would be to make better use of and enhance the many traditional shopfronts. You will need to work with the regional tourism office to identify facilities needed for tourists to stop in the town.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

We look forward to receiving your five-year plan for developing natural amenities and wildlife in next years competition.

LANDSCAPING

The church grounds were very well-kept. You could plan to plant trees inside the boundary wall at the right side of the church to screen views to the tank and fencing. The green at the junction with the Belmullet road should be mown. The planting there was colourful. All of the efforts toward planting of beds and window-boxes are highly commended - the floral displays were very attractive and improved the towns appearance greatly. The clean-up of the shambles has created a very pleasant green in the town - well done!

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As was stated above, the town is fortunate to have kept so many of its traditional shopfronts, and a plan is needed to bring some of them up to competition standard. You should enlist the aid of the county architect in this regard. McAndrews, for example, could be a contender for an award if it were freshened up. The same is true of the post office. The pottery centre, an important tourist draw, needs better maintenance of the building and garden. A row of plastic signage, in the centre of the town, strikes a negative note - Deanes, McDonnells, and Ceide House should aim to use wooden signage and more planting. Healys Bar looked very well. O'Connors and Kavanaghs would be improved with some flowers. Mays B&B was very impressive. Polkes was freshly-painted and looked well. The infill buildings opposite also looked well and the natural colour scheme was admired. Barretts is a very attractive building, but the windows need touching up and a few flowers. Winters shop looked well. Wine and Sons needs freshening up. OGradys was well-presented, but a few flowers are needed. The signage at the fire station needs attention. The derelict building near Mays is a problem area, as is the house next to the infill site. Perhaps it could be painted.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter was not a serious problem, but rather was localised to the fronts of foodstores such as Deanes and Siopa Siufinn. Perhaps the proprietors could each provide a bin for their customers. Litter was also noted in front of the church.

TIDINESS

Generally, the town gave a very tidy impression. Well done! Weed control was very good overall, especially along Main Street, with just some weedy kerbs in front of the post office. There were some weeds on the Killala Road. Perhaps the gravel area here could be grassed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many houses on Main Street were well-maintained and freshly-painted, such as the ones next to Healys and opposite Ceide House. The small house on the Belmullet Road should be whitewashed and the houses at the sign for Ceide Fields are very noticeably in need of painting. The renovated house with the

red door sets a good standard. The front gardens on the Rathlackan Road were a bit weedy and bland. The small row of houses here could be improved. Tree planting at Seaview estate looks well and is coming along nicely, but be sure to keep the grass in the open spaces mown. A few boundary walls here need re-painting. Tir Saile was very tidy but the walls were somewhat weedy.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Your committee should discuss with the county engineer the possibility of speed controls. Many people speed through the town at 50 miles per hour. The Killala Road was very tidy and welcoming, with the tree planting, planters and stone walls. The hall near the town sign here needs painting. The planting at the town sign looked well. The Crossmolina Road needs attention. The town name sign has not been re-painted and was overgrown. The stone walls on this road should be cleared and grass verges mown. The old hydrant was very cheery. The planting at the junction with the Rathlackan Road is a highlight of this road. Grass verges on this road should be mown all the way to the speed limit signs. Most of the stone walls on this road looked very well, but the wall which fronts the view to the coast at the first bend needs repairing. There is potential for improving the streetscape. The County Council could improve some of the footpaths and kerbing on Main Street. The streetlights could be more attractive. The committee should try to obtain some street trees where the footpath widens opposite Ceide House.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town is making good progress but you need to develop a plan of action for the development of the town, particularly in relation to the buildings and natural amenities within the town. Also, be careful with litter - you have lost points this year in this section and constant vigilance is required.