

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYMOTE**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	20
The Built Environment	40	22
Litter Control	40	28
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	17
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	163

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

There seems to be great enthusiasm on the part of committee, but it seems that there are not enough people involved in Tidy Towns for a town of the size of Ballymote. You will need to develop a plan for the future not only with the County Council, but with your entire community. This should involve the local schools, residents associations, and the business community. You should also try to coordinate with your local tourism officer and the O.P.W. about developments with the castle. Your plans to have the castle flood-lighted are a good start.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

While you have not submitted any details about the wildlife aspect of your proposed park, we hope that you will try to enhance the wildlife potential with a sound design for the park and its planting. As there are no major natural amenities in the area, you are correct in targeting the areas along the Sligo Road and the Gurteen Road as areas which will form part of the natural amenities for the area. If these areas are developed as ecological parks, they will have a great impact on the encouragement of Wildlife in the area.

LANDSCAPING

Unfortunately, you did not submit any project this year for adjudication, but we look forward to the plan for the proposed town park. The floral displays on the entrance to the Railway station and beside Gilmores Garage look well - this is a great effort and you should continue this work. The Town seems to be lacking in trees, specifically broadleaf native trees such as Ash, Lime, Beech . These trees (and others) should be planted on open spaces and along roadways wherever possible.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Too many shops still insist on displaying their wares in the footpaths. This creates a cluttered appearance and can make access for the disabled very difficult or impossible. Please try to make the business community aware that this does not enhance the town or make the shops attractive. Perrys is very cluttered by this type of display. ODowds Drapery needs a new sign and paint on the upper storeys of the building. The display of wares on the footpath and hanging of clothes outside is to be discouraged. Cassidys looks very well, with fresh paint and hanging baskets.

The animal healthcare building was well-presented. Perrys Funeral Home needs freshening up. The wall at Ballymote Enterprise Centre needs painting. Grattan Cleaners looked well. The Castle Hotel is still a problem area. There was machinery lying around to one side of the hotel building which detracts from the otherwise well-kept appearance of the street.

Scanlons pub is very well-presented and makes the corner of Lord Edward Street and Ballinscarrow Road very welcoming. Scullys pub has a broken plastic sign and a wooden sign in need of painting. Ballymote Community Enterprise Ltd. looked very well and is a main feature of this street. Ulster Bank was very well-kept, but would benefit from a few flowers outside as would Kieltys Rock Bar.

The pastoral centre was freshly-painted and looked well. The library has a shabby appearance and needs to be re-painted as do the benches in front of it. The livestock mart looked well. However the building next to the mart (opposite Perrys Funeral Home) needs re-painting and repair works.

The Bank of Ireland was very attractive with its window-boxes. The plastic signs at Cryans could be replaced with more traditional ones. P. Reynolds needs painting, as does Johnson and Johnson and Cawleys. Doddys is very attractively presented. Patrick Rogers improves the street and shows great effort. The Keash Inn improves the junction of the Boyle and Sligo Roads, but the derelict building opposite is still detracting from this part of the Town. The railway station buildings are impressive, but the

open spaces around the station are in need of a clean up. The rusty fences detract from the new beds. The station posts could use painting. The embankment between the station and the road was very weedy. The stone walls and shed are in very poor condition. You will need to coordinate a plan with CIE for improvements to this area. The new rockery looks well.

Overall, there appears to be a lot of effort being made in painting buildings, but owners should be encouraged to paint their buildings on a regular basis, as it would add so much more to your town. The castle promises to be a great attraction, and we look forward to the completion of the restoration works.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter in the town is not as serious a problem as in the past. The town was relatively clean on adjudication day, but there are not enough litter bins, especially on the main street and near the library. Litter bins are often full to overflowing, notably outside the church. The difficulties which you have encountered in recent years with litter control in the town would appear to be under control. The Town was very clean on the day of adjudication, and the Committee is to be commended for its work. There is a need for more litter bins around the town, and you should concentrate on appealing to local business and the county council for more bins. The church grounds were litter-free.

TIDINESS

Generally, the Town was tidy on adjudication day. The one disappointment was the display of wares along the main street. This detracts from your town, and some efforts should be made to control this problem.

The yard next to AIB was noticeably untidy, with weeds and rubbish dumped in it. Graffiti at Gatsbys entrance is unfortunate and should be painted over.

The grass bank leading to the grotto should be mown or planted. The school and its grounds were tidy. The grass in the grounds of the church needs mowing and the wall around it could use freshening up.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Almost all of the residential areas were presented to a very high standard, and great credit is due to all. The derelict residential houses are unsightly and we look forward to their renewal. Also the standard of road surfacing is poor in many areas. You should lobby the council for resurfacing. The house next to the livestock mart had colourful window boxes. The houses next to it need painting as does the old pole outside it. The green house opposite the library needs re-painting. The house to the right of the Castle Hotel looked very well but the building opposite with the high entranceway is very drab and needs painting. Houses along the Ballinscarrow Road could be improved, and perhaps a residents group should be formed to tackle problem areas. The houses opposite the church are well-kept. Window-boxes would further enhance their appearance.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Boyle road was litter-free but the hedges were not trimmed and looked untidy. The Collooney road had piles of timber and equipment in a yard which was open to view. The roadside banks were weedy and unmown. The rusty barbed wire along this road was not a welcoming sight. Tree planting along this road should be undertaken after a general clean-up. The trees at the junction of the Boyle and Sligo roads will improve this area in time. The Riverstown road had grass verges which were not mown and stone walls in need of clearing. The barbed wire fencing here is intrusive upon the view of the hill with the beech trees. Ballinscarrow Road had grass verges which were not mown. The Gorteen road should be maintained better, and the right-hand side on the approach to the town has walls and buildings in need of painting, especially at the junction with the Sligo road.

Street signs would be helpful and could be an attractive feature of the town. The street lights are an

improvement and should be continued throughout the town. Planters would look well on the main street.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Great efforts are made every year, despite the obstacles which you have to overcome. There are some problem areas which you must tackle, namely the derelict houses, repainting of some premises, the main Sligo Road, and the provision of more areas for wildlife within the Town. Your work and effort over the year is commended, and was clearly visible on adjudication day.