

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINGARRY**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17
Landscaping	40	27
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	26
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	190

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The information received on the entry form and the map were helpful on the day of adjudication. Obviously this is a well organised Committee who are to be commended on their fund raising activities and ensuring the co-operation, in the main, of the community and the various development agencies. The work undertaken up to last year is now maturing nicely and the new projects which were carried out have been noted. However, your two main black spots of the dump in Church Lane and the old Barracks are still hindering your efforts.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The grassed and planted areas throughout the village, which will be mentioned later, are to be commended. However, in regard to the wildlife element there is potential for greater nature conservation. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats of your catchment area and see what species of animals, bird and fish these attract. Advice should be sought from local environmental experts and groups on all aspects of wildlife.

LANDSCAPING

There are a number of well landscaped areas in Ballingarry which give a good impression of the village to those passing on the busy road and, no doubt, are pleasing to the residents themselves. The lay by picnic area has now been completed and the plants are maturing well. This whole area is well maintained and the litter bins and seating nicely painted. It was noted that a man was at work in this area on the day of adjudication. The shrubbery planting on the right hand side on the Birr road past the picnic area is also good. The other grassed and planted areas on the Birr and Borrisokane roads are well presented. The large petunia bed on the Birr road is the most colourful flower bed seen by the adjudicator. The rose bed planted outside the old Barracks in the centre of the village helps somewhat to alleviate this eyesore. Stone walls and grassed area also on Aglish road with a flower bed around the tree and ash planting opposite noted. Perhaps some seating could be provided at the riverside area..

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The new Community Hall on the Birr road is well maintained with the gravel weed free and the front of the building enhanced with flower tubs. The Garda Barracks is well maintained but the planted bed outside needs the briars and grass to be removed - public buildings should not include such features if they are not going to be properly maintained. Noonans pub was being painted during adjudication and is looking well with nice window boxes. Some type of planting such as Virginia creeper to cover shed at the rear would be recommended. The Garage painted yellow in the middle of the village needs repainting. However the yard was nicely graveled and tidy. If the unsightly petrol pumps outside are not in use they should be removed. The Garage painted green with the factory next door and the factory itself were both well presented. The Post Office sign on the pole should be replaced. The shop in the village and O'Donohues Pub are reasonably maintained. However, in the case of the latter building the sign and other woodwork needs refurbishment. The flower tubs outside, which are a good idea, also need replanting as without some colour here the area is rather bare. The Church of Ireland building and grounds are well presented.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little evidence of litter on the day of adjudication and it was noted that there were many litter bins throughout the village, obviously contributing to this happy fact. One of these bins at Noonans pub is in need of repair.

TIDINESS

The overall appearance of the village was one of neatness and tidiness, with litter and weed control taken care of. However, the area where old machinery is abandoned on Church Lane will have to be addressed as will the problem of the unoccupied Barracks - in the latter instance the Local Authority should again be contacted for assistance. As the village continues to improve overall this building is going to stand out more noticeably as a blackspot.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Individual properties and the housing estate on the Borrisokane road, with a few exceptions, are all contributing positively to the overall Tidy Towns effort being undertaken by the people of Ballingarry.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

As previously mentioned, the approaches to the village are particularly attractive. The Welcome to Ballingarry signs in English and Irish with Slan Abhaile on the rear are a nice feature. On the Roscrea approach there is a good stone wall, the hedges and grass are neatly trimmed and the three bungalows on the right hand side are well presented as is the entrance and grounds of what appeared to be a storage depot. As mentioned, the Aglish approach is nicely landscaped and the bungalow Rose Cottage is attractively presented. On Church Lane (outside of the machinery black spot) the hedges are well trimmed and the two houses on the right are very attractive.

OVERALL IMPRESSION

The Adjudicator saw much progress in Ballingarry. The Committee are to be commended on continuing to generate enthusiasm for their worthy efforts to make Ballingarry a more pleasant place both for themselves and for visitors. The results that have been achieved to date should now be consolidated upon and a determined effort made to make inroads into what still needs to be done. The 3/5 year plan required in 1997 will be of assistance in setting out goals and targets to be achieved.