

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17
Landscaping	40	28
The Built Environment	40	30
Litter Control	40	28
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	195

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The notes and the map which were submitted with the entry form were most useful to the Adjudicator. It seems that a small Committee is attempting to achieve much with assistance from the National School, the Foroige youth group, FAS schemes and the County Council. This is a busy village with a lot of through traffic but the overall impression is good. It is unfortunate if the efforts of the Committee are not getting the fullest community support. Much has been done since 1995 and it was noticeable on the day of adjudication, with a number of young people cutting grass and working on the Grotto and along the main street, that the work continues. The report outlined what has been done since last year and some of your plans for the future. The Committee must, for 1997, draw up a work programme for three or five years, setting out a year by year programme with achievable targets or objectives for each year. This may attract greater community support with individuals or groups undertaking specific tasks or projects similar to the sponsorship for the Foroige amenity project undertaken in 1992 and the school children adopting the Grotto.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The school is to be commended for its wildlife garden project and the children should be encouraged to continue developing this, perhaps giving them more space around the Hall and involving the youth group. It should be signposted and a display board provided to show visitors the various plants etc. to be seen. There is potential for even greater nature conservation in the village. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats of your catchment area and see what species of animals, birds and fish these attract. Look to your local environmental experts and groups to get involved.

LANDSCAPING

The mature and recently planted trees are a notable feature of the village and complement its natural rural setting. The planting of flowers throughout the village - opposite the Post Office, at the Grotto, at the Foroige green and along the front of the houses on the Holycross road show off the village to good effect. The GAA grounds are well-maintained; the poles and netting along the wall by the road are obviously necessary from a practical point of view but they really are visually obtrusive. The landscaping and general maintenance of the area around the carpark opposite the Church is poor and this area takes away from the splendid efforts throughout the rest of the village. The timber fencing at the plantations on the Holycross road should be replaced or at least repaired and treated with wood preservative.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The National School is very well maintained and the grounds nicely landscaped. Also the new tree planting is commendable. The teachers and childrens contribution is an important investment for the future both within the School and beyond its school grounds. Elsewhere, the graveyard with its Church ruins and stone walls; the Parish Church and grounds; the thatched shop (P. Longs) on the corner of the Nenagh road and the Post Office - all of these public or commercial premises were well presented. Village signs and other signposting should be kept clearly visible and cleaned or repainted. The Hall could be made more attractive especially if it were possible to repaint the exterior - could a FAS scheme assist ?

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was good throughout the village except along the carpark opposite the Church. It would appear that some of this control has to do with the involvement of the youth and school children.

TIDINESS

The village, on the day of adjudication, was noticeably neat and tidy and the planting and flowers gave a

warm, colourful impression. The plan to provide a re-cycling bin (and its proposed location) might solve some of the problem at the carpark.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private houses in the village and on the approach roads, especially the Holycross road, have all made an effort and are to be commended. The two thatched premises are attractive; the premises opposite, on the green, however, could be improved. The houses along the main road, from the Post Office to the GAA grounds, especially next to the Church, are very attractive and well presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads are generally good and work was in progress in tidying up along the walls on the Thurles road. The Nenagh road - both sides are somewhat overgrown and could be cut back. The village sign was almost hidden in the undergrowth.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of the village, however, was good and the village green as a focal point is an attractive feature. As already mentioned, this is a small village with considerable through traffic. The work of those involved in the Tidy Towns effort are overcoming the problems inherent in this situation and they deserve the support of the whole community.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (18/08/96)

Litter was less of a problem along the Church carpark this time but quite a few papers were noted by the GAA grounds. The stone walls were truly admired, especially on the Thurles Road. The initial approaches to the village on the other roads regrettably looked poor on account of overgrown verges/hedging. When leaving the village on the Upperchurch Road the derelict cottage at the junction, particularly its boundary with tar barrels, created a poor impression. Nonetheless, this adjudicator concurs with the first adjudicator that the overall impression of the village was good, particularly the meticulously mown greens.