

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYMACARBRY**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17
Landscaping	40	21
The Built Environment	40	31
Litter Control	40	26
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	177

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The Tidy Towns Competition has adjusted its emphasis to a point where it is positively encouraging centres to give thought and energy to the development to a 2, 3 year or long-term Programme for the better presentation of the centre. In this way the efforts of Tidy Towns Groups, which are to be applauded, will make a more meaningful and long-term contribution to the better presentation and evolution of each centre. Committees are further urged to examine the opportunities for the better preservation and presentation of natural and wildlife habitats. For example a greater use of the Riverbank facility and its highlighting should be considered. The need to provide cohesion and a sense of identity in a village like Ballymacarbry which is long drawn out is particularly important.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The development of the two level picnic area is a superb example and response to the new emphasis in Tidy Towns Competition. The Riverside amenity is especially important and when completed will contribute materially to the range of facilities Ballymacarbry offers the visitor. Because of the surrounding environment wildlife is plentiful in the area - on the day of adjudication a splendid fox showed considerable interest in our activities.

The provision of distinctive table, suitable steps and railings to the picnic area are applauded. Flower planting and use of suitable shrubs is to be commended. Perhaps more could be achieved in the car park at the central village junction.

LANDSCAPING

Within the spirit of the new emphasis, examine assets and see how they can be best utilised. In this regard the small arched bridge below the car park might be presented to a greater degree. The fine display of rhododendrons on the Waterford road were attractive as was the general presentation in the Grotto area. Individual field entrances, in stone wall, were a delightful feature of the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The village has no obvious focal point but offers considerable individual houses featuring good, vernacular architecture. Melody's Bar was particularly well presented as was the Post Office, Garda Station and the houses between them. Patrick's Hall looked well but the doorway requires small repairs to its base and would benefit from painting. The fine river bridge also is part of the built environment and because of its strategic importance at the entrance to the village might be examined further to see how it can be best accentuated. Waterford Foods' new facility looked very well. The smaller shed which appeared to be closed down should not be left to slowly decay but positive action taken in respect of it. Doogley's Bar was well painted with brave use of pale green. The plastic sign ought to be reconsidered.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter management within the centre was under control. Litter bins both in terms of location and maintenance were of a high order. The National School, although outside the centre proper was noted with approval to be entirely free of litter. Small amounts were observed, together with disfiguring spoil at the central car park overlooking the River.

TIDINESS

The centre generally exudes an air of order and neatness accentuated by the suitable presentation of hedgerows and road verges. There was an old and poor looking diesel pump assembly at Doocey's Filling Station which detracted from an otherwise very fine presentation marked by good floral displays. The railing of the field opposite the Garda Station with rusting and limp wires jarred with an overall good

presentation. The advertising signs for Melody's Bar and Equestrian Centre would be improved by painting and washing their obverse side.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Ballymacarbry is a smaller centre which places greater emphasis on individual houses in the absence of sizeable housing estates. The house at the bridge was particularly striking and the presentation of St Martin's Place, which featured well positioned litter bins is applauded. The private house close to the centrally located Bar was particularly splendid with fine garden displays being featured.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads to smaller settlements are of considerable significance and attention needs to be directed towards accentuating or, in some places creating a clear cut off point between the surrounding rural area and the village itself. This works particularly well because of the bridge on the approach on the Clonmel road. Equally the village nameplate was very well presented but the 40 mph signage was less successful - one being badly bent. The signage for the Nore Scenic Drive and the Comeragh Drive were somewhat askew and less effective as a result.

The verges and hedgerows were uniformly well presented and added materially to the attractiveness of the settlement. Generally, many of the obverse sides of road signs which were in need of cleaning.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballymacarbry is a centre which is working hard in the Tidy Towns movement and is largely successfully. It is important to complete and submit a detailed entry form drawing attention to the many activities your Committee undertake and giving information about the support secured from the local Community.

Additional effort is needed during this Autumn and Spring to the devising of an appropriate 3 to 5 year Work Programme designed to accentuate the undoubted wildlife and landscaping attributes of this attractive centre.