

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINAGORE**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14
Landscaping	40	25
The Built Environment	40	22
Litter Control	40	22
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	163

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Further improvements have been made in Ballinagore since last year. Your detailed entry form and photographic record is a good indication of what you are hoping to achieve and the areas that will require further attention in the future. The widespread support that you are receiving from the Community together with the assistance from state agencies are very encouraging and indicate continuing progress in the years ahead. It is also noted that you are working with the Local Authority in preparing a village renewal plan which will give added direction to your efforts.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new section in the competition and it is encouraging to find that you have given consideration to it and that you have already identified several important habitats including bats, birds and fish. You should seek further advice on how you can enhance these habitats and incorporate them into future development plans for the village.

LANDSCAPING

A lot of effort has been put into landscaping at various locations throughout the village. The many stone flower beds are a feature and add colour and interest. It is important that these features are kept as simple and maintenance free as possible. The flower bed at the Castlelost Junction is somewhat over fussy. You should consider removing the pole with the flower pots and the hanging basket under the name sign as these do not contribute anything to the overall presentation and will require daily watering. The riverside amenity is most attractive with stone walls, well presented seating and attractively planted flower tubs as is the stone work and planting on opposite side of bridge at the Horsepool.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Ballinagore is a small village and the various buildings are generally well presented, e.g. Mahons and the Top Shop and Garage. The school is also satisfactory. The new stone tidy towns building adjoining the Top Petrol pumps is most attractive and is shown off to advantage by the hanging baskets and flowertubs. Landscaping at the carpark at Mahons would improve the appearance or alternatively it might be screened. Camouflage work has been carried out to the buildings in the village centre, however the roofs are about to collapse and they require further attention.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is excellent and no litter was visible on the day of inspection. The adjudicator was particularly impressed by the absence of litter on the banks and in the bed of the river which is an area often overlooked. The new litter bins were noted and they also add colour.

TIDINESS

The village has a tidy and well cared appearance. This is brought about by the absence of litter, attractive stone walls and the well presented buildings. The overall affect will be heightened when the footpaths and other works have been completed in the village centre.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residential properties are generally satisfactory. The derelict buildings have been camouflaged although as has been mentioned additional work is required to keep them presentable. The cut stone entrance is a fine feature in the village centre.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The grass has been cut on all the approach roads and the hedges trimmed, however additional work is needed on some stretches to bring them up to the same standard as the junction area of the Lilliput road. The stone walls are another impressive feature of Ballinagore particularly the stone walls on the Tyrrellspass road, also at the bridge and at the junction of the Lilliput road. Here and there stretches of chainlink fencing need upgrading. The concrete wall with the rusting barbed wire on opposite side of road leading from Mahons and towards the school needs upgrading. Improvements could also be made to the concrete wall approaching the school. The fencing on top of the wall is ugly and could be screened or removed. The pump in the village centre is a nice feature and is shown off to advantage.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Ballinagore is that the community is fully behind the Tidy Town effort and that good progress is being made. The village has many attractive features but you must continue to exercise restraint on how these are presented. Your development plan will be of great assistance in focusing attention on weaker areas and what needs to be done.