

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYKEERAN**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14
Landscaping	40	19
The Built Environment	40	20
Litter Control	40	23
Tidiness	20	9
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	150

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

The work programme as outlined in your Entry Form considerably improved the appearance of the village. However, there is still an enormous amount of work to be done for the village to achieve its full potential. You should consider preparing a Development Plan which would set out objectives to be achieved over the next four/five years and which hopefully could generate additional community support. Progress will be slow unless you can get additional FAS work or the Community can come together to tackle community areas particularly on the main Glasson approach and parts of the Athlone approach.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new section in the competition and in the past has not received the same attention in many communities as it merits. Ballykeeran is fortunate in that it has several attractive habitats - the mature trees, the stream and lake. In your future development plans you should consider how best these areas can be enhanced. Obtaining advice from competent experts would be important.

LANDSCAPING

The rose bed at the telephone kiosk on the Athlone road is colourful and most attractive. The stretch of new stone wall particularly between the kiosk and the bridge as well as the maintained grassed area with trees show how attractive Ballykeeran could be if the rest of the village was brought up to this standard. The shrubbery at the car park of the Dog and Duck which overlooks the low road to Glasson is a nice feature but needs to be weeded. Much of the large car park at the Dog and Duck is unsightly with long sprayed weeds particularly at the boundary. Landscaping work particularly at the entrance to the car park would greatly improve this area.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Dog and Duck is the only commercial building in the village and parts of the stone plaster work needs to be repainted. The stone house under repair at the bridge is in a strategic location and when completed will greatly improve the appearance of the village.

LITTER CONTROL

A scattering of litter was visible on the day of inspection in the village particularly at the stone wall, on the low road, in front of the Dog and Duck and also approaching the bridge. There seems to be some improvement since last year in litter control but more work still needs to be done.

TIDINESS

A tidier atmosphere would be created if the Glasson approach was maintained. Undoubtedly the work that has been carried out to date has beneficially improved the appearance of the village, however, the condition of the approach roads particularly the Glasson road detracts considerably from the overall appearance of Ballymahon. In general the patchy state of the village with some well presented areas and other untended considerably reduces the overall effect.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are several very attractive residences in the village - for example, the houses on opposite side of road to the telephone kiosk have colourful and attractive gardens. Boundary walls are also freshly painted. On the hill back road there are a number of well presented houses, these include two well maintained thatched houses. On the Caravan Park road there are a number of weedy entrances and gravelled areas.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Improvements are taking place on the Athlone approach as has already been mentioned. However, landscaping work is needed on the Athlone side of the telephone kiosk to bring it up to the standard of the area at the other side of the telephone box. The lengthy stretch of stone wall under reconstruction on the low road is noteworthy and when completed will add considerably to the appearance of the village. The Glasson approach is in a poor condition and this has been highlighted in previous years (especially the grassy slopes in the vicinity of the speed limit signs). This is an area with considerable potential for planting and the grass should be cut on a regular basis and cut grass removed. There is also room for improvement at the junction where there is a weedy entrance area. Ongoing attention will also have to be paid to ensure that the verges (which are mainly clay) adjoining several stretches of stone walls are maintained in a good condition. A number of poles require painting and fly posting should be removed from the back of directional signs.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The appearance of Ballykeeran is steadily improving. Individual effort is good but community spirit still appears lacking. A development plan may assist in achieving your objectives.