

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYMORE**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14
Landscaping	40	24
The Built Environment	40	23
Litter Control	40	22
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	168

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballymore has reached a high standard of presentation and additional improvements have been noted since last year, especially in new stone walls and in the presentation of some commercial properties, e.g. Rooneys. However in other areas progress is not as noticeable e.g. weed control. You should consider the preparation of a Development Plan which would target the weaker areas and which could help generate additional community involvement as well as greater support from the state agencies. You must try and make that extra effort which would make all the difference.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new section in the Competition and it is important that from now on communities make provision for the improvement and maintenance of natural and wildlife habitats. The hedgerows, the mature trees and well planted gardens in themselves are important habitats, for example some trees/shrubs can be more beneficial than others for wildlife and this should be borne in mind for future planting. If necessary you should seek advice on the best approach from competent experts. Lough Sewdy is an important natural habitat and should be taken into consideration in your future plans.

LANDSCAPING

It is the quality of the landscaping particularly the mature treescape, together with the well maintained wide grassed verges that gives Ballymore much of its character. The shrubberies, the stone walls as well as the colourful hanging baskets, flower tubs, window boxes, etc. are all important contributors to the landscaping quality of the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The restoration work on the Church especially the cleaning of the stonework, has transformed its appearance. The exposed stone work at Rooneys is most attractive and when completed will look even better. The Community Hall and its landscaped grounds with window boxes, wooden flower tubs and hanging baskets is again presented to a high standard. The simple facade of the Post Office is effective. Several of the other business premises are well presented, e.g. the Village Inn. However there are several tin sheds on either side of the Community Hall which need painting and the plaster work of some buildings particularly at the Moate Junction needs painting. The facades of some of the business premises are out of keeping with the character of the village. Your ongoing efforts to deal with a number of derelict buildings are noted.

LITTER CONTROL

Regrettably there appears to be some slippage in standard since last year, as on the day of inspection a scattering of litter was noted in a number of areas especially at the Moate road junction, at Rooneys and here and there in the wide grass verges. However while litter is not a serious problem it must be contained. This is an area that you would need to watch more carefully in the future.

TIDINESS

Ballymore has a cared for and tidy appearance and the scattering of litter does seriously affect its overall appearance. The quality of presentation of most of the buildings and grassed areas generate a good impression, however there are several wide gravelled margins that require weeding and these do effect the overall standard of cleanliness.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the private houses are of a good standard of presentation. Many have attractive gardens and

maintain to a high standard boundary walls and fences and several have new stone walls and well painted boundaries. In the Village there are several freshly painted houses and several have colourful hanging baskets, window boxes, etc. The Local Authority housing in the village centre is satisfactory. Several of the trees are somewhat scrawny, particularly at the road entrance area and these should be replaced at an early date. As has been mentioned there are several properties that need to maintain gravelled areas between boundary and road especially on the Moate road and the side road at Rooney's. The newly restored cottages at the opposite side of road to the Top Garage are an attractive feature of the village.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads are of a good standard of presentation with well maintained grassed areas and hedges - the Mullingar, Athlone and Moyvore roads in particular. The new stone walls and stretches of neatly trimmed hedges are also effective. On the Moate road there are several weedy open and gap areas that should be screened. Screening white-thorns at concrete and chain-link fence were noted and when they mature will be effective. There is still a lengthy stretch of concrete chain-link fence and adjoining concrete wall in the village which would greatly benefit from the planting of screening trees. On the Athlone bend the wooden fencing needs replacement and the public seat needs painting.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballymore has the potential to do even better in the Competition. A stepped up effort will be required concentrating on the various points mentioned in this report. Greater attention to detail and the finer points is also important at this level.