

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYNACARGY**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	24
The Built Environment	40	25
Litter Control	40	20
Tidiness	20	9
Residential Areas	30	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	160

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Significant improvements continue to be made in Ballynacargy with progress noted on the presentation of approach roads, lengthy stretches of new and improved stone walls, the harbour area has been upgraded, and improvements to the presentation of business premises and private residences have taken place. The objective must be to bring the weaker areas up to the standard of the best. The preparation of a Development Plan would help in generating additional support from the community and would help by focusing attention on the weaker areas. State Agencies will also give more recognition to Communities who are tackling problems on a planned basis.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new section in the Competition and it is important that communities take the preservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and natural amenities fully into consideration in their future plans and work programmes. Ballynacargy is fortunate that it has got the Canal and the harbour which are important habitats as well as a wealth of mature trees, attractive hedgerows and well planted gardens all of which are significant wildlife habitats.

LANDSCAPING

Ballinacargy is a canal village and you are fortunate in having a fine stone harbour which is the focal point of the village. The presentation of this area continues to improve. The attractive stone bridge is set off by the well planted shrubberies on either side. The large closely cut grassed areas does a lot to improve the appearance of the harbour, however the planted trees in front of the Local Authority housing are not up to standard. Many of them are long and straggly, others have failed or have been vandalised. It might be better to start again - try and ensure that planted trees have good strong supports.. The large amount of trapped floating vegetation in the harbour which also contains litter is unsightly. It might be possible to flush this away or have it removed by manual means. The closely cut grass particularly on the Mullingar and Rathowen roads as well as mature trees and newly planted trees are other good features of the village as are the many well planted hanging baskets and window boxes etc. The blue painted water pumps were also noted.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the business premises are well presented and many have been listed in last years report. The colour scheme of the newly painted school is simple but effective. There are a number of empty and derelict premises which considerably detract from the appearance of the village, e.g. Farrells with its vandalised petrol pumps and the premises at the junction of the Rathowen road. The wooden fencing at the Garda Station is badly in need of painting.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is patchy. Litter control is best on the approach roads and main street. However the side streets have considerable amounts of litter particularly on the approaches to the harbour and the harbour itself as already mentioned contains floating litter.

TIDINESS

The good points of the village, many of which have been mentioned e.g. approach roads, etc., are to a large extent overshadowed by weaker standards of presentation, e.g. derelict buildings, several parking and open areas need sweeping as loose chippings, gravel and other material is unsightly especially in the vicinity of Farrells. Upgrading the road surface in this area would also make a big improvement to the tidiness of the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are many exceptional private houses and gardens throughout the Village. Several maintain to a high standard boundary areas and walls, gravelled and grassed areas between boundary walls and road. Several of the Local Authority houses particularly in the vicinity of the harbour need to be upgraded. A number of houses in the village need to be painted or to weed open areas, e.g. house at junction of Castletown road.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The quality of the approach roads continue to improve and this is an impressive feature of the village. The Mullingar road with its closely cut wide grassed margins and mature trees is attractive as is the Rathowen road. The lengthy stretch of stone wall on the Carrickboy road is another noteworthy feature. However, long sprayed weeds are unsightly on stretches of this road. It is important that spraying takes place before weeds become established. The Castletown road is also of a high standard. However, the side streets in the village are not of the same calibre and additional work is needed to bring these up to the same standard as the main approaches.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballynacargy has the potential to improve further. Steady progress is being made, however you must try and generate greater support from the community, for example significant improvements can still be made to the harbour and other areas of the village.