

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINAGH**
County : **CAVAN**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	20	17
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	10
Litter Control	40	10	10
Tidiness	20	5	5
Residential Areas	30	16	14
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	16	15
General Impression	10	6	3
TOTAL MARK	300	139	127

Ballinagh, County Cavan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Many thanks to your comprehensive responses to the questionnaire and clear map both of which were very useful on adjudication day. The Ballinagh village enhancement programme made interesting reading and the proposals when implemented should add greatly to the village. The Tidy Towns Committee is obviously a committed and dedicated one and the adjudicator wishes you well in your future endeavours.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The buildings along the main street of the village were well presented on adjudication day. Ballinagh has some fine examples of vernacular architecture in the form of shop fronts such as Lowry's (although the stickers to the window give a very cluttered appearance), O'Brien's (although the inappropriate and out of scale plastic sign should be removed and replaced with something more in keeping) and Murray's (perhaps the curved canopy could be replaced with a more traditional fabric awning). A very attractive two storey vernacular house with fanlight in a prominent location at the junction in the centre of the town opposite O'Casey's is well worth a sensitive restoration job. It looks quite flaky at the moment. The church looked very fresh. However, its graveyard and grounds to the front were very overgrown. The hanging baskets at Casey's Steak Bar looked magnificent. Centra was very fresh with some beautiful window boxes also. The church next to the Garda Station was well maintained and the Garda Station itself was quite fresh, as was Spars. The O'Rahilly Hall could be freshened up before next year. The National School has a magnificent setting upon a hill top with lush grassy green banks and a stunning view of the countryside beyond. It was well cared for but the boundary wall, piers and railings were quite flaky detracting somewhat from the general impression.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaped areas of the town were well presented on adjudication day and the standard in this category was reasonably high. The landscaped picnic area at Marian Court with its lush grassy banks looked well and the tubs throughout the village with their mixture of permanent planting and flowers including colourful pansies gave the village a cheerful appearance. The landscaped picnic area at Corstruce looked well cared for with its stone flower beds of pansies. The area directly in front of the GAA grounds needs attention. Although some attempts have been made in terms of planting roses, bushes etc., it still looked sadly desolate and weedy. Tree planting at the attractive wide main street breaking up the car parking should be a valuable asset to the town in future years. As will the landscaping at the car park of the community hall which is quite desolate at the moment.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The village of Ballinagh is in a lucky position in terms of environmental issues. Your proposal for a wildlife habitat along the riverside is commendable. On adjudication day the grass had been cut back but not removed and some evidence of dumping of litter was apparent to the other side of the bridge. Get the local school children involved in this category of the competition. They can play a part in your efforts to identify the local habitats, produce a detailed map of areas of wildlife importance and formulate a wildlife management plan.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard in this category was lower than that in others - quite a few papers were scattered along main street. Quite a lot of litter was apparent by the phone boxes at Brady's, outside Sheridan's and along the Kilnaleck Road. You could perhaps get the local school children involved, acting as junior litter wardens.

TIDINESS

The standard in this category could also be improved upon. Weed control was a problem on the day. There was evidence of weeds at a boundary wall by Marian Court estate and to the front of the boundary wall of the church and graveyard. There was a noticeable amount of weeds at the kerb opposite the church further in towards the village. Although the stone wall at the Community Hall was admired, many weeds were apparent to the inside of the wall at its base and indeed in the car park area in general. Weed control was also a problem at the base of a boundary wall to cottages on the Kilnaleck Road. Try to discourage fly posting as it gives the village an untidy appearance. Despite the comments in last year's report, goods such as concrete pipes etc. were still being stored at the market house.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category was quite good. The residents of both the town and the approach roads obviously show a great pride in their properties. The houses at Marian Court were reasonably fresh although one or two needed freshening up and the landscaped area here has already been mentioned. A garden at St. Olivers on the Longford Road was admired for its lush green lawns. The houses and gardens on the Kilnaleck Road were well cared for, one of note being a bright yellow house.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Some improvement was noted in this area following last year's report. Unfortunately, along the Cavan Road unfortunately the nameplate sign to the village was still bent back so that only half of the name was visible. The road surface was in good order. Along the Kilnaleck Road some boundary walls needed attention. The nameplate sign was in good condition. Although the verges could have been neater, the wild ferns were admired. The village nameplate sign on the Killeshandra Road was quite grubby and the speed limit sign was quite faded.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballinagh is a village with a heritage of fine buildings including the

Old Mill, Market House and a host of vernacular gems. It created a reasonably ordered impression and obviously enthusiastic work is taking place as much activity was evident on adjudication day. However, much is yet to be done and you can not afford to be complacent. Good luck with the work and congratulations on your significant increase in marks.